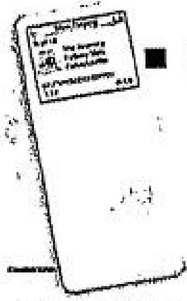


■ LIFESTYLE / C1

2bu!'s Christmas gift guide for the under 30

■ BUSINESS / B1

November inflation seen at 6.7-7.1%

■ ACROSS / A18

Enrile, Defensor face suit over Samar logging

■ WORLD / A12

US legislator pleads guilty to bribery

Apple iPod, Xbox 360 hottest electronic gifts for Christmas

BUTI NA LANG MAY ePod NA SA DIVISORIA

TWO OF THE MOST-COVETED consumer electronics items this holiday season are the Apple iPod music player and the Xbox 360 game console from Microsoft, according to US retailers and in-

APPLE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

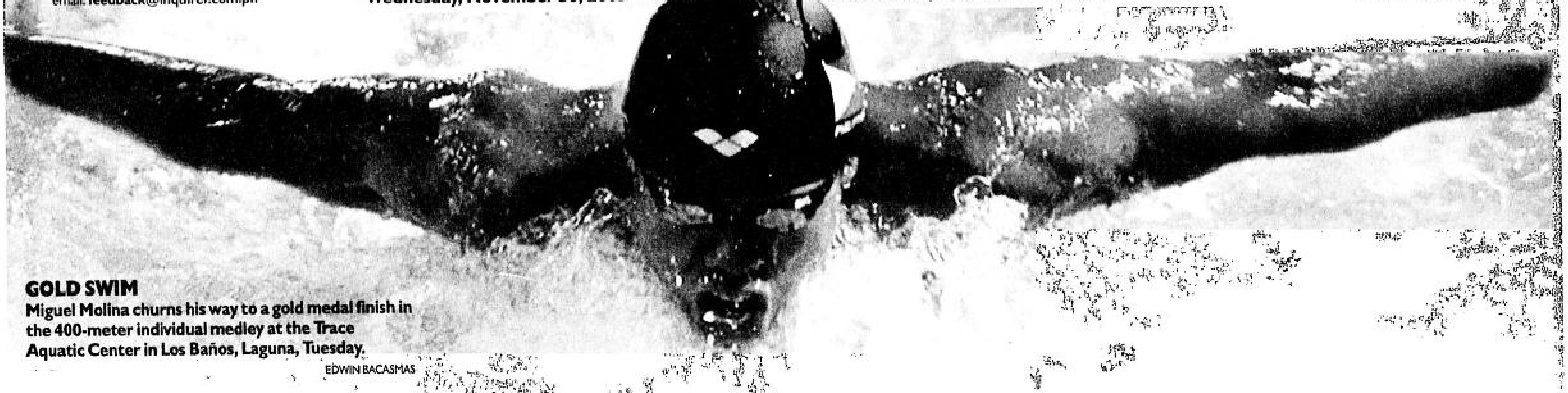
Garci left RP disguised as flight crew–Gonzalez

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

CONTRARY TO HIS CLAIM THAT HE DID not leave the country, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Gacillano left for Singapore on July 14 disguised as a crew member of a Subic Air Learjet, Justice Secretary Raul Gon-

GARCI/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, November 30, 2005 10 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 355 P18 website: www.inq7.net



GOLD SWIM
Miguel Molina churns his way to a gold medal finish in the 400-meter individual medley at the Trace Aquatic Center in Los Baños, Laguna, Tuesday.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Peso up; economy slows

53-level against US dollar breached

By Doris C. Dumlao

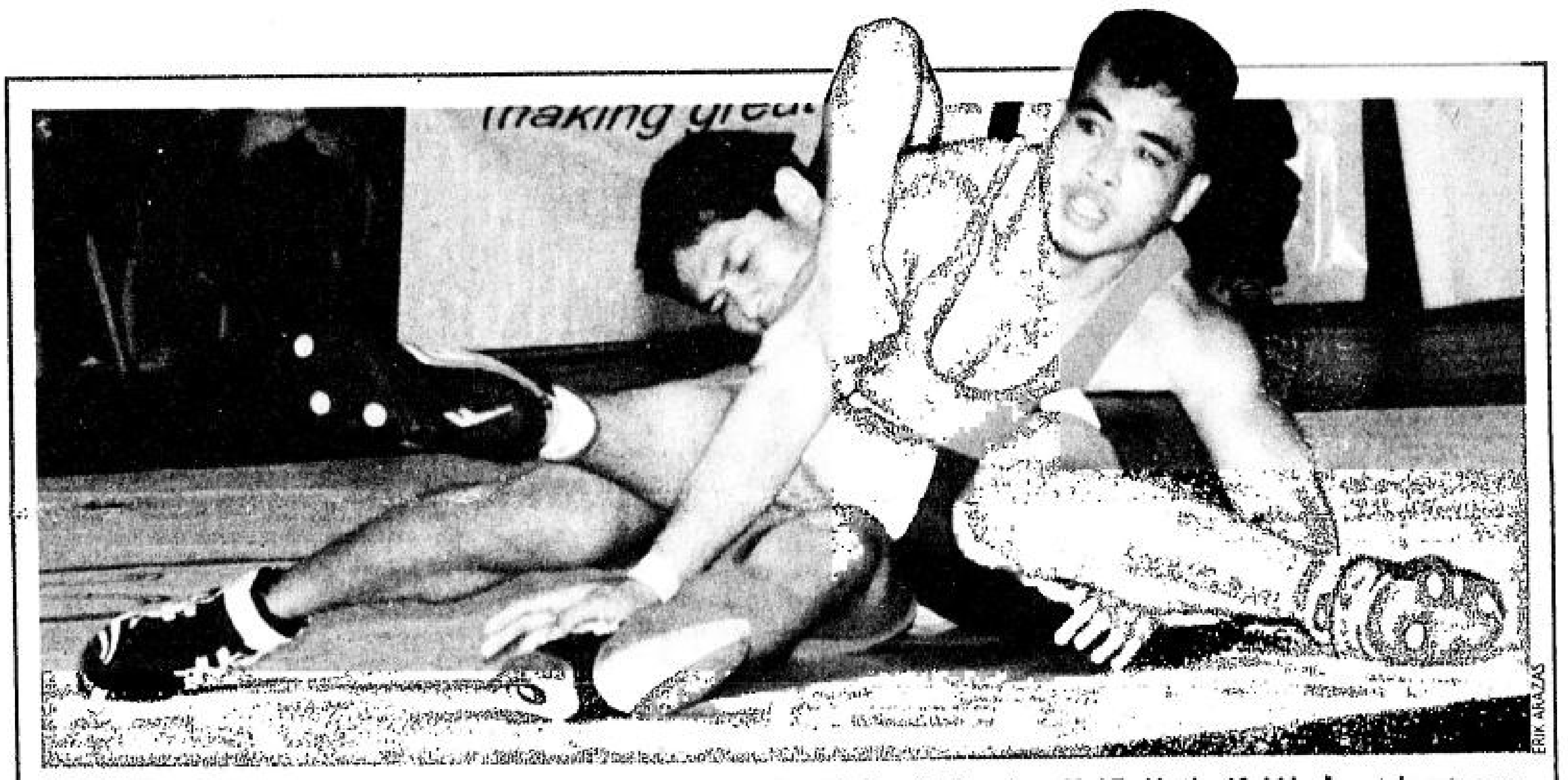
OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers seeking better rates for their dollars before the peso further strengthens helped push the local currency yesterday to the 53 level, according to the treasurer of a commercial bank.

It was the first time in nearly seven months since the country was rocked by illegal gambling and election-rigging scandals that the peso broke into the 53 level against the greenback.

The peso opened at 54.05 and surged to an intra-day high of 53.91 in the afternoon before closing at 53.945, a gain of 20.5 centavos from Friday's finish of 54.15. The closing rate was the currency's strongest finish since March 16.

Volume traded in the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $439.5 million.

PESO/ A8



THE Philippines' Jimmy Angana (right) grabs a gold in wrestling against Thailand's Thanakorn Tud Ead in the 60-66 kg freestyle category.
ERIK ARAZAS

RP bags 16 golds, pads medal lead

By Roy Luarca

STRONGMAN ARNIEL FERRERA carried the weight for the Philippine campaign yesterday, highlighting a sprinkling of gold medals that kept the Filipinos ahead in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The 24-year-old Ferrera threw the hammer a distance of 60.14 meters to shatter the 12-year-old SEA Games record of 58.8 meters set by Indon Dudung Sunendri and retain the crown he won in Vietnam in 2003.

A mathematics graduate, the 5-foot-11 Ferrera got valuable execution tips from bosom buddy and fellow Negrense Jerro Perater on his sixth and final heave. Perater settled for the silver with a throw of 53.44m at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Wushu turned out to be the most productive for Team Philippines with Willy Wang and the Aida Yang-Vicky Ting and Lester Pimentel-Richard Ng combine topping their events.

Wang ruled the taolu-qiangshu (spear) with a score of 9.30 to become the Philippines' second double gold medalist after diver Sheila Mae Perez. Earlier, Wang topped the taolu-jianshu.

Showing timing and precision, Yang and Ting topped the taolu-duilian (duel event with weapons) for women with 9.23 points while Pimentel and Ng ruled the men's side with 9.25 points at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

RP BAGS/ A22

Games sked today in Sports, Page A27
More stories, photos in Sports, A25-30

Oil prices, politics cut growth to 4.1%

By Michelle V. Remo

HIGH OIL PRICES, the flagging global demand for electronics, a sluggish performance in agriculture and the political turmoil slowed the country's economic growth to 4.1 percent in the third quarter from 6.2 percent in the same period last year, officials said yesterday.

The economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), the value of goods produced and services rendered, had grown 5.2 percent in the second quarter.

GDP growth for the three months to September was below private sector forecasts of 4.3 percent to 5.0 percent.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said the

OIL/ A9

House approves constituent assembly for Cha-cha

By Philip C. Tubeza

SWEEPING ASIDE OPPOSITION objections, the House of Representatives last night passed a resolution calling for a constituent assembly to change the country's 18-year-old Charter.

The move, if similarly approved by the Senate, means the two chambers of Congress are a step away from forming themselves into a single body to draft constitutional amendments that could usher in a parliamentary form of government for the country.

After four days of debates, the House approved by a voice vote Concurrent Resolution 26 "convening Congress to propose amendments to, or revision of, the 1987 Constitution."

"The ayes have it. House Concurrent Resolution No. 26 is hereby adopted," said House Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, the presiding officer, to the applause of administration lawmakers at 9:25 p.m.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments and the resolution's author, said the resolution would be sent to the Senate "as soon as possible" for its concurrence.

"I'm sure they will decide on it before Christmas, or at the latest, before the New Year," Jaraula said.

He said he expected both houses to eventually sit down together to propose amendments but actual work by the two chambers on the Charter could start only in March.

The resolution limited the

HOUSE/ A6

US Marines deny raping woman at Subic Bay

By Tonette Orejas, Ansbert Joaquin and Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—FOR THE first time, five of the six American Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman on Nov. 1 in Subic have denied the charge.

"No such crime occurred. At no instance, in any point in time, did I have sex, forcibly or otherwise, with [the woman]," said Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier, 27, in his 10-page counter-affidavit filed yesterday by his lawyer Francisco Rodrigo Jr.

Corporal Corey Burris and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis, Keith Silkwood and Albert Lara also filed their affidavits yesterday through their lawyers Emmanuel Peña, John Coluso and Jose Justiniano, respectively.

Like Carpentier, the four servicemen denied raping the woman. All

US MARINES/ A6

GEMMA DAMALERIO: God heard my prayers.
CDN/ JUNJIE MENDOZA

WAPILLE: Verdict leaves ex-cop teary-eyed.
CDN/ JUNJIE MENDOZA

Court finds cop guilty of journalist's murder

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THREE YEARS AFTER the killing, a former policeman was convicted yesterday of the murder of journalist Edgar Damalerio and sentenced to reclusion perpetua.

Judge Ramon Codilla of the Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 19 also ordered ex-PO1 Guillermo Wapille to pay Damalerio's family P135,000 in moral, civil and exemplary damages.

The crowd in the packed courtroom cheered when the verdict was read. The widow, Maria Gemma Damalerio, broke into tears and said the verdict was "a victory" not only for her family but also for "the people behind [her] who are not afraid to die."

According to the Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 6-92, reclusion perpetua entails imprisonment of at least 30 years, after which the convict becomes eligible for pardon.

"I respect the decision of the

COURT/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers becoming frequent rains over the eastern section. The eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will also be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/11/30/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

5 troopers killed in clashes with NPA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY SUFFERED NEW SETBACKS IN the hands of the New People's Army, as two militiamen and three soldiers were killed in two encounters with communist rebels in Mindanao and northern Luzon during the weekend, military reports said.

This brought to 18 the number of government troops killed by communist guerrillas since the NPA stepped up its current offensive on Nov. 19. More than 30 others have been reported injured.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo yesterday said that at around 9:30 a.m. Sunday, rebels set off a land mine and opened fire on a team of five Cafgu militiamen led by Army Cpl. John Fellesco in Barangay New Dalaguet, Montevista, Compostela Valley. The team had been dispatched to check on the reported presence of NPA guerrillas in the area, according to the reports.

Militiamen killed, hurt

Two of the militiamen – Antonio Mahumot and Virgilio Garcia – were killed while two others, identified as Fernando Aet and Celso Salim, were wounded in the ambush.

At around 5:15 p.m. Sunday, members of the 17th Infantry Battalion encountered an undetermined number of communist guerrillas in the boundary of Pinukpuk and Balbalan municipalities in Kalinga province.

Three Army soldiers were killed in the firefight, the reports said. The fatalities were identified as Cpl. Ricardo Gabriel, Pfc. Philip Domingo and Pvt. Albert Again.

Land mine used

The renewed fighting between government forces and NPA rebels started two weeks ago when communist rebels killed nine soldiers and wounded 20 in an ambush they sprung with the use of a land mine in Calinog, Iloilo on Nov. 19. It was one of the bloodiest attacks by the NPA in recent years.

This was followed by a string of clashes in Quezon province.

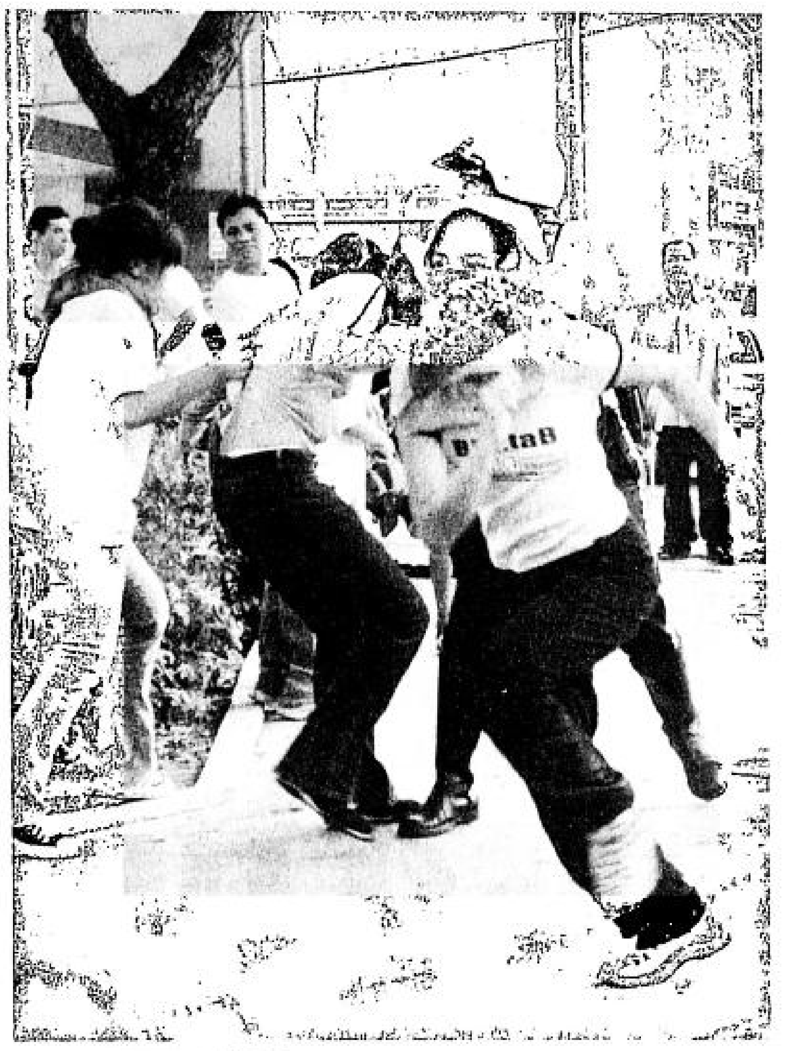
On Nov. 20, a policeman was killed while three others were wounded when rebels attacked a Globe Telecom Inc. cell site in Tiaong. Three more soldiers were killed and nine wounded in a clash with NPA rebels in Tiaong the following day.

Another Globe tower

During that week, the rebels also bombed another Globe communication tower in Lucban.

The military retaliated and killed nine alleged communist rebels in Barangay San Agustin in Palo, Leyte, on Nov. 21. Among those killed was a pregnant woman, according to militant groups who denounced the killings as a massacre of unarmed farmers by members of the Army's 19th Infantry Battalion. The military claimed it was a gunbattle.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga has rejected calls for an early Christmas ceasefire and vowed to press on with counteroffensives, which has forced hundreds of families in Tiaong and nearby towns in Quezon to flee their homes.



LIGHTNING QUICK
A member of the Kabataang Makabayan takes off as police break up a lightning rally held by the militant group in Cubao, Quezon City, yesterday to mark its 41st anniversary. The group called for the ouster of President Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

Human rights worker slain in Ilocos Sur

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN ESTEBAN, IlOCOS SUR – A coordinator of a church-based human rights organization in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions was shot and killed by a lone gunman on the national highway here on Monday night.

Jose "Pepe" Manegdeg III, 37, coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP), was waiting for a bus at about 10 p.m. when a van stopped in front of him, police said. A man alighted from the vehicle and shot Manegdeg with a .45-cal. pistol.

Manegdeg had just spoken at a seminar sponsored by the Ilocos Human Rights Advocates in Barangay Apatot here and was waiting for a bus for Metro Manila when attacked. He was going to pick up his wife in-Metro Manila, according to Beverly Longid, vice chair of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA).

Manegdeg's companions who were at the seminar learned about the attack from the tricycle driver who had taken him to the highway. They found Manegdeg lying 15 meters away from a waiting shed. His cellular phone and wallet were missing.

22 bullet wounds

Longid called the attack "a clear manifestation of brutality," noting that Manegdeg had sustained 22 bullet wounds.

Sister Genoveva Dumay, coordinator of the RMP in the Ilocos, said Manegdeg had received death threats through text messages after Bayan Muna Ilocos coordinator Romeo Sanchez was killed in March this year.

"He would tell me that he would receive threats informing him that he would be next after [Sanchez]. We believe that this is work-related," Dumay said. "The RMP condemns the killing of Pepe. We ask for justice and we call on the government to stop terrorism against progressive church workers."

Dumay and Longid said Manegdeg was tasked with helping tobacco farmers and had taken part in campaigns against the contamination of the Abra River and military operations in the Ilocos region.

Uplift peasants

RMP was organized in 1969 by various orders of Roman Catholic nuns in the country to uplift the condition of Philippine peasants and push for land reform. It was expanded in the 1980s to include priests and at one time espoused liberation theology.

Pastor William Mariano, coordinator of the Regional Ecumenical Council in the Cordillera (Reccord), said Manegdeg was a former Reccord coordinator who worked with Benguet farmers.

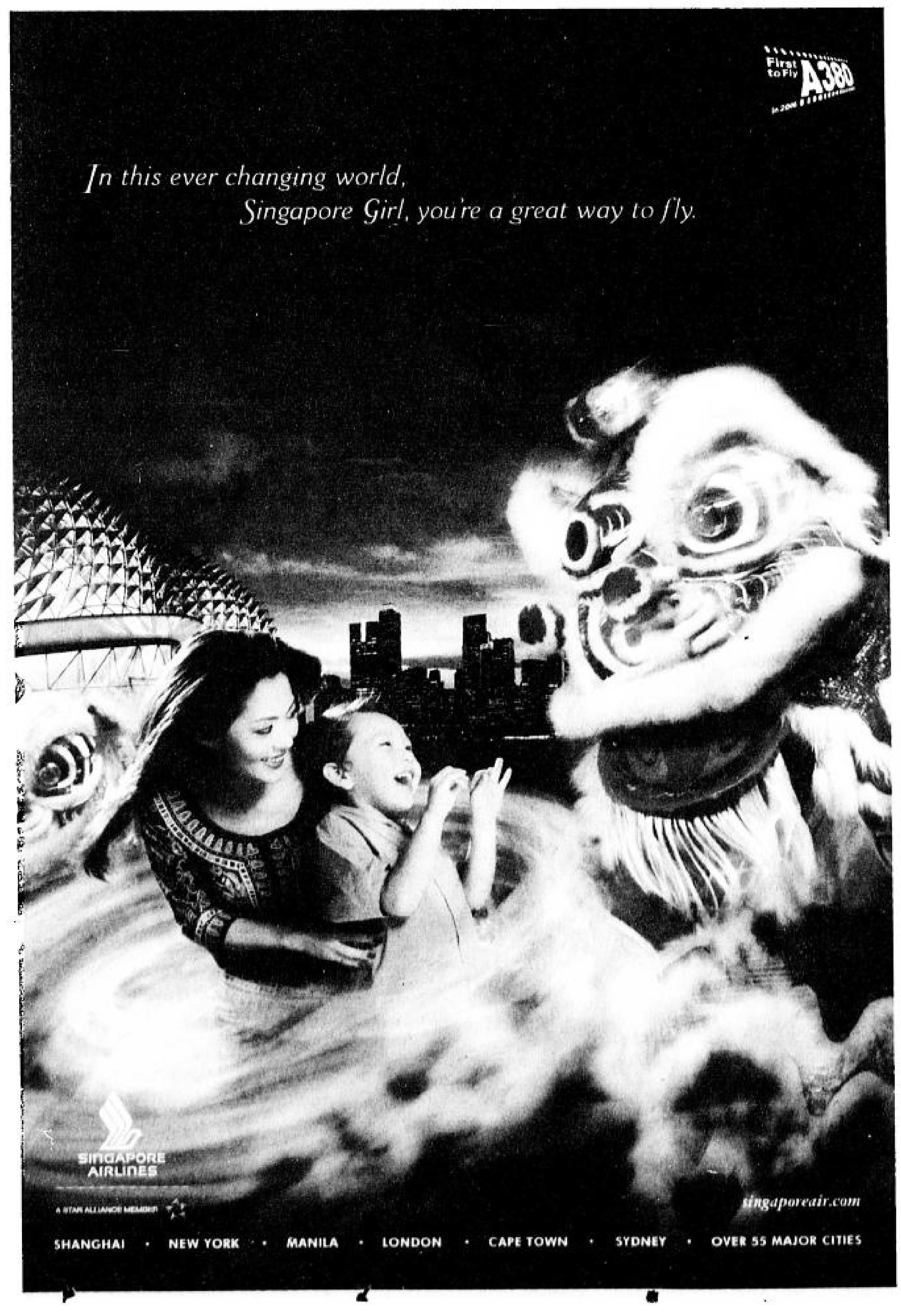
Another attack

In Bangued, Abra, another activist was shot and wounded by a man on a motorcycle on Tuesday morning.

Reports said Albert Terredano, 43, was on his way to his office at the Department of Agrarian Reform in Bangued when he was attacked.

Terredano is president of the DAR Employees Association (Darea) in Abra and a volunteer staffer of Dinteg, a legal center of Cordillera indigenous peoples and a former staff member of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP). He was under observation at a local hospital where doctors said his lungs had been punctured by a bullet.

Police said it was unclear if the two attacks were related. *With a report from AFP*



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Equip't failure delaying flights

EXPECT SOME flight delays in the next few weeks.

The reason: The Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network (AFTN), the main piece of equipment used by air traffic controllers (ATCs) to transmit important flight information such as weather data, flight position reports and vital operational messages, has conked out.

Nilo Jatico, chief of the Air Transportation Office (ATO), told the INQUIRER that ATCs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) were forced to use fax machines to "stay connected with other networks" in other parts of the world.

"It's a cumbersome process that results in delays in flights," Jatico said.

Jatico said arriving and departing flights were only delayed by five minutes, but the Airline Operators Council (AOC) said the delays have been as much as 10 to 15 minutes.

In fact, departing aircraft have to queue at the Naia runway for take off, something rarely seen in other international airports. *Nikko Dizon*

KM calls on youth to overthrow GMA

By Alcuin Papa

THE MILITANT GROUP – Kabataang Makabayan (KM) has called on the youth to join the struggle to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

In a statement to media yesterday, KM spokesperson Andres Guerrero II said it was "the responsibility of every nationalist citizen and youth" to take up arms to topple the government.

"We can only put an end to [a semi-colonial and semi-feudal system] through waging the armed struggle in the countryside. We fervently call upon the Filipino youth and masses to take part in the national democratic revolution and join the New People's Army in building a brighter future," the KM statement said.

Guerrero said the administration could only be brought down by "hundreds of thousands of people flooding the streets that will cut off the bankrupt Arroyo government from its remaining support."

The statement also called on "nationalist young officers" to join the people in ousting Arroyo, meaning members of the military.

Guerrero said the Arroyo administration had failed to advance the interests of the youth and of the people in general.

He also accused the President of protecting the interests of the United States, saying the government appeared to lack interest in pursuing the rape case against six American Marines in Subic.

Yesterday's statement was issued following the traditional lightning rally in celebration of KM's anniversary.

KM, a youth organization under the aegis of the National Democratic Front, was founded by Jose Ma. Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines founder. It is celebrating its 41st anniversary today.

It went underground when President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and was at the forefront of the struggle against the dictatorship.

ARMM first to enact law on forest mgm't

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has passed the country's first law on sustainable forest management, paving the way for the protection of the region's remaining forest cover.

The ARMM government recently completed the implementing rules and regulations of the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 161, also known as the Regional Sustainable Forest Management Act of 2004, signalling the start of its implementation.

"Only ARMM has this law in the country," said Fer Esguerra, information officer of the Philippine Environmental Governance (Ecogov) which helped craft the law. "ARMM's forests are highly threatened."

The ARMM had 119,607 hectares of closed-canopy forests (rain forests and primary growth forests) and 123,002 hectares of open-canopy forests (plantations and other forests) as of last year. Its mangrove swamps cover 53,620 hectares.

Forestry regulations applying to the rest of the country are embodied in PD 75, a martial law decree issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos, which even the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) considers outdated.

ARMM's forest management law would compel local governments within the autonomous region to have forest management plans identifying which forests should be protected and which ones could be economically exploited under specific conditions.

Esguerra said the ARMM law incorporated the Shariah laws on practices that would be allowed inside production and protected forests.

The ARMM law bans commercial logging in protected areas, prioritizes the rehabilitation of watershed areas and promotes ecotourism in the region.

Esguerra said the law also mandates the local governments to give priority to forest development initiated by the indigenous communities and not commercial firms.

"We're just waiting for the existing timber license agreements to expire," he said.

He said the law institutionalized the participation of communities to ensure that "there is no collusion between the DENR and the LGUs" in the forest activities.

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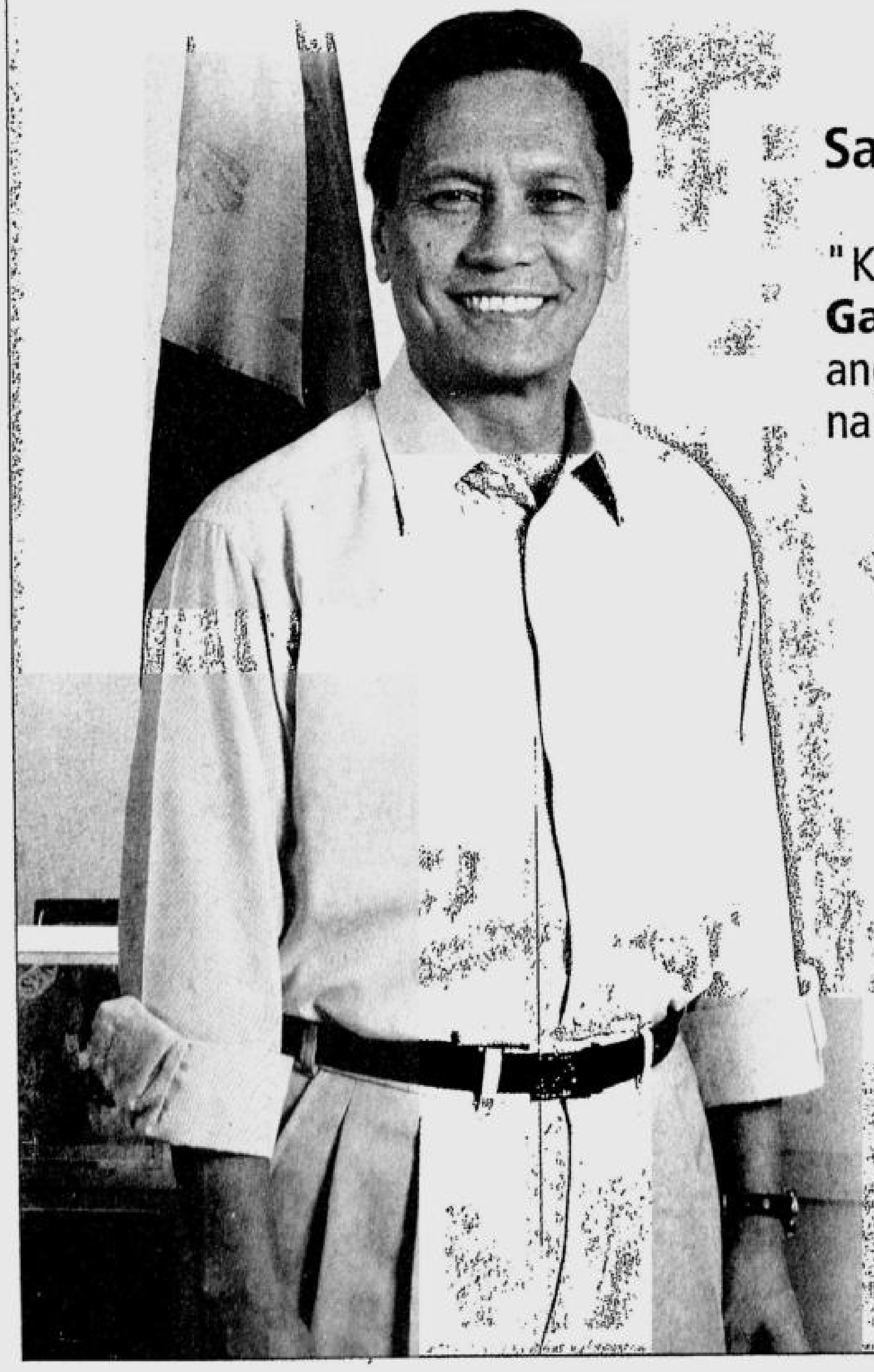
Department of Health



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In Zambo, US troops training RP forces

SIRAWAI, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE—WHILE all eyes are on Sulu because of rumors US troops had joined Philippine military operations against the Abu Sayyaf, close to 50 US servicemen are conducting joint exercises with their Filipino counterparts here and in nearby Zamboanga del Sur.

Dubbed Balance Piston 06-1, the antiterror training exercises here and in Guipos town in Zamboanga del Sur actually started in October without much fanfare.

Even the military's Southern Command (Southcom) initially said it had no information about the US-led training here.

Maj. Gamal Hayudini, Southcom public information officer, on Monday said he had no idea about the activity.

"I am going to check first," he said.

The following day, Hayudini confirmed the training where "60 Filipino soldiers are participating."

"The training was being conducted by a handful of American trainors," Hayudini said.

Lt. Col. Mark Zimmer, public affairs officer of Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, told the INQUIRER the exercises, which would end the first week of December, were being conducted "as per request of the Philippine military and the Philippine government."

"We are here to train, assist and advice and the training runs until December," Zimmer, who visited the US troops here on Saturday, said.

Lt. Col. Ramon Florese, commander of the Army's 44th Infantry Battalion, said the exercises on marksmanship, life-saving techniques and combat tracking started on Oct. 31.

"Actually, they are already in the last phase of the exercise," Florese said.

"The objective is to upgrade the capability of our soldiers on small weapons techniques," Hayudini said.

Maj. John Bodor, commander of Charlie Co. of the 2nd US Army Battalion, said three exercises were being jointly undertaken, one in Guipos with the 51st Infantry Battalion, with the 44th IB and the 102nd Infantry Brigade in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

"So far, the training is running smoothly," Bodor said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US fighter plane still can't take off

ONE WEEK AFTER IT MADE AN EMERGENCY landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) due to mechanical problems, a US Air Force F-16 fighter jet remained parked in a private hangar at the Naia.

Its partner jet is also parked at the Balagbag/Ages Aviation Corp. hangar. Fighter jets always fly in pairs.

Chito Esteban, officer in charge of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) operations department, yesterday said repairs were still being done on the disabled jet.

"I was told it could take another two weeks to fix," Esteban said in a phone interview.

On Nov. 22, the missile-armed supersonic aircraft, piloted by Capt. Justin Dupuis, was on its way to Misawa Air Base in Japan from Singapore when it encountered problems in its hydraulic system and requested to make an emergency landing at the Naia.

Miaa officials said the aircraft had already lost its steering and brakes when it landed.

Some 30 laborers at the Miaa had to push the disabled state-of-the-art aircraft from the runway to the hangar as the Miaa's towing vehicles were designed to pull only commercial jets.

Nikko Dizon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 30, 2005
1st Week of Advent

1st Reading: Rom 10:9-18
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus walked by the lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He went on from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them.

At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Commentary

Jesus catches sight of Andrew and his brother Simon casting their nets into the sea and summons him to follow him. He catches him in his daily work and family and lays claim to him forever. Andrew leaves and goes off in the company of others who have been called, a new family casting their nets widely in the world, snaring the sick, the paralyzed, the deranged and all who suffer in a net of healing and hope. Who do we spend our lives catching off guard and snaring in the net of God's embrace? Who will you catch today?

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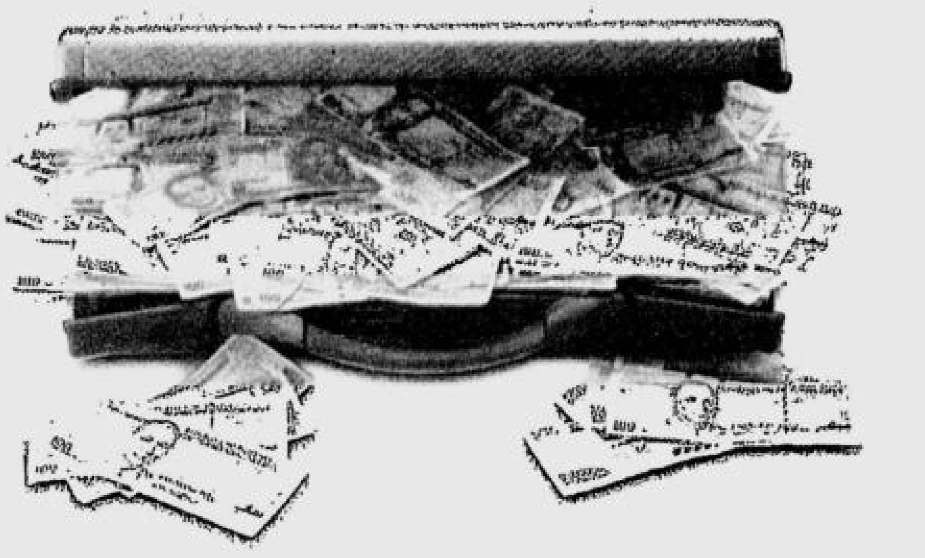

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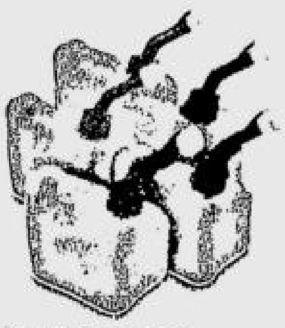

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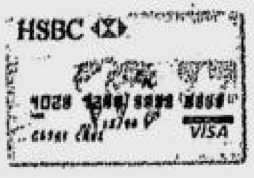

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Per DTI-NCR No. 2990, Series of 2005

US Marines deny raping woman at Subic Bay

From page A1

asked the Olongapo prosecutor's office to dismiss the complaint.

It was the first time since the alleged rape that the five servicemen issued official statements. They are being held by the US Embassy.

Benjamin Formoso, counsel for the sixth Marine, Daniel Smith, said he did not file Smith's affidavit because the evidence from the woman's lawyers were being filed on "a piecemeal basis."

According to Filipino driver Timoteo Soriano Jr., another accused, it was Smith whom his colleagues were prodding to abuse the woman.

Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni gave Soriano's lawyer, Raul Paras, until Dec. 9 to file the driver's counter-affidavit.

The lawyers of the respondents and the complainant have until Dec. 14 to file their memoranda on the case. Jalandoni and Assistant Prosecutor Raymond Viray need these documents before issuing a resolution on the complaint.

Carpentier's account

Carpentier, the oldest and most senior in rank of the accused, said in his affidavit that at about 9:50 p.m. on Nov. 1, he left the USS Essex with Gunnery Sgt. Paul Taylor to look for something to eat.

He said he and Taylor rode in a dark green nine-passenger van provided by the US Marine Corps for their transportation that was driven by Soriano.

Carpentier said he was going around the Subic port to make sure that everyone in his platoon was back at the ship by curfew.

"I continued to round up the members of my platoon and steered them to the van. When I finally got to the van, I saw Silkwood and Duplantis there. The driver, Soriano, however, could not be found. As I turned around toward the club to find him, I saw Soriano come out of the club. It was then that I noticed Smith with the Filipino girl that was with him," Carpentier said.

'No force'

When they reached the front gate of the wharf leading to the ship, he said the van stopped right at the gate.

He added: "I disembarked from the van and whipped open the doors yelling, 'Let's go, let's go!' As the men were getting out, I noticed the Filipino girl was also getting out of the van. I vaguely recall someone saying, 'Say goodbye to your bitch,' to which the Filipino girl replied, 'I am not a bitch. Don't say that.'"

Carpentier said he was back at the ship at around 1 a.m.

He said the woman's claim that she had been sexually abused by only one US soldier negated her charge that she was gang-raped.

He also said the woman "voluntarily boarded the van with Smith."

Carpentier denied that the woman was carried out of the van and dumped on the sidewalk like a pig.

"The circumstances alleged are implausible under the circumstances considering that the place where the complainant was supposed to have been dumped like a pig was very lit and there was a good number of US Marines and locals in the area," he said.

In his own counter-affidavit, Burris said that about 8 p.m. on Nov. 1, he left the USS Essex with Lara, his designated buddy.

He said he danced and hung out with Lara at Dewey's Club at around 9 p.m., and proceeded to Neptune Bar where they saw Silkwood, Smith and Duplantis.

At 11:30 p.m., Burris said, Carpentier arrived at the bar with Soriano.

They went back to their ship, buying a pizza along the way, Burris said. The lawyers presented the receipt for their pizza as proof.

Burris said that he and Lara ran back to their ship at around 11:55 p.m., and that at about midnight, both of them officially signed in.

'Not drunk'

Duplantis said that on Nov. 1, he was with Smith and Silkwood when he went to Dewey's Bar.

He said he joined a separate group of Marines and sang and danced with some Filipino girls.

"I recall Smith, Burris, Lara and several others from the ship. I was not drunk though I did have about four [bottles of] beer," he said.

At about 10 p.m., he said, he, along with Smith and Silkwood, took a cab to Neptune.

They "danced and stayed" at Neptune until 11:30 p.m., "when Carpentier arrived and began rounding us up in order to make curfew," he said, adding:

"When I got into the van, I saw Smith in the back seat with a Filipino girl, whom I later found out to be the complainant. Silkwood sat in the middle seat behind the driver and Carpentier who were in the front seat. I sat in the middle seat beside Silkwood."

Duplantis said that when he got into the van, Smith and the woman were "kissing, giggling and fooling around."

"I had never seen the complainant before and she appeared alert, talkative and not distressed," he said.

He added that he did not hear any disturbance, arguing or complaining from Smith or the woman.

Silkwood also denied raping the woman or witnessing a gang rape.

He said the statements of the woman and the witnesses were "lies and half-truths, meant to prop up and strengthen the fabricated charges" against him.

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House OKs constituent assembly

From page A1

amendments to three areas:

- The structure of government, principally a shift to a unicameral parliamentary form of government under a federal system.
- Basic economic provisions "to maximize the benefits [for the] welfare of the people without being shackled by unnecessary and impractical constraints and limitations."
- "A mechanism for the orderly transition from the present to the new form of government."

The House's vote meant it had spurned the idea of amending the Charter through a constitutional convention whose members would be chosen by election.

"We still have to dispose of the budget and the antiterrorism bill. We would have our debates [on the amendments] from March to June," Jaraula said.

A plebiscite to approve proposed constitutional amendments could be held in August next year, he said.

"Proposing amendments to, or revision of, the 1987 Constitution through Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, is the cheapest, fastest and most practical under present circumstances," the resolution said.

"The second alternative of a constitutional convention is not affordable even now due to financial and time constraints, and the third option of a people's initiative has no implementing law," it added.

House minority members tried to delay the resolution's approval and interpellated Jaraula for more than four hours but to no avail.

Three hours into the debates, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas complained that the minority was unduly delaying the resolution's approval.

"(The vote was set) first for 7:30. It's now 8:06 p.m. This is a violation of the promise of closure. We should consider other people here. We are treating a mere concurrent resolution. Why are we not being considered here?" he said.

A first voice vote was held at 9:05 p.m. when the House majority succeeded in having the resolution approved without "any objection" because no one from the minority raised an opposition when the vote was called.

But Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo moved for a reconsideration since he wanted to file an amendment. Ocampo wanted the portion of the resolution calling for amendments to the Constitution's economic provisions deleted.

The majority agreed to Ocampo's motion for reconsideration but, through a second voice vote, turned down his amendment. They then approved the resolution in full.

Apple iPod, Xbox 360 . . .

From page A1

dustry analysts.

That represents a major shift in buying intentions this year.

In 2004, portable MP3 music players did not even make the annual top 10 list of desired gifts compiled by the Consumer Electronics Association.

And video game machines were in ninth place.

This year, though, those categories occupy the first and third positions on the list, based on a telephone survey of 1,000 randomly selected adults.

Digital cameras are second on the most-desired list this season.

The shift for music players is tied, in large part, to Apple's success. Apple, which holds more than 70 percent of the MP3 market, has defined the category, said Dan Miller, vice president of the Cnet.com online shopping service.

During the first nine months of this year, $2.3 billion worth of MP3 players were sold. An additional $700 million in sales is expected in the final quarter.

In fact, Microsoft may not be able to meet the demand for the Xbox 360. Microsoft sold 450,000 Xbox 360 consoles on Nov. 22, its first day on the market, according to estimates by Michael Pachter, a video game analyst with Wedbush Morgan Securities.

The New York Times

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'Funds key to helping OFWs'

By Leila B. Salaverria

IF CONGRESS WANTS TO HELP overseas Filipino workers who are in jail abroad, it should look into how the funds allocated every year for legal assistance for the workers are being spent, the militant group Migrante said.

Migrante chair Connie Regalado said yesterday that under the Migrant Workers Act of 1995, P100 million is supposed to be provided in the annual budget to help OFWs who get into trouble with the law.

The money is given to the Legal Assistant for Migrant Affairs which is under the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"There are funds automatically given for the OFWs who get into legal trouble. How did the DFA use these? Were these used to help the jailed workers?" Regalado said in a phone interview.

In a recent report to the House of Representatives, the DFA said more than 4,700 OFWs were languishing in foreign jails.

Following this report, the House appropriations committee said it would consider increasing the amount of income that Philippine embassies are allowed to retain so the funds could be used to help the imprisoned workers.

Migrante has asked the lower house to also look into the use of funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). It said Migrante had learned from sources that the DFA had been allegedly borrowing funds from the OWWA to help jailed OFWs.

Regalado said the DFA is supposed to have its own funds for distressed OFWs and should not be borrowing from the OWWA.

She also said the government should look into the conditions of the jailed OFWs. She said Migrante had received reports that the children of jailed OFWs in Saudi Arabia were staying with their parents in prison because they had no one to care for them.

3 Filipino women raped in Kuwait

By Volt Contreras

THREE FILIPINO WOMEN WERE ALlegedly raped in separate incidents in a span of 10 days in Kuwait, the Department of Foreign Affairs ((DFA) reported yesterday.

The DFA public information desk withheld details, but said the Philippine Embassy in the oil-rich state had been providing counseling, medical and legal assistance to the women.

An official, who requested anonymity, said the last incident occurred on Nov. 23. He said the victims were picked up on a street of Kuwait City and forced into a car by still unidentified suspects.

The three women, all overseas workers, were raped more than once, the official said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has ordered the release of funds "to secure a conviction" in the three cases.

Last May, three Kuwaiti policemen were meted out prison terms for raping a Filipino woman in November 2003.

In November 2004, four Filipino women were rescued from a white slavery syndicate also in Kuwait. Six months later, court sentenced their two abductors, both foreign nationals, to life imprisonment.

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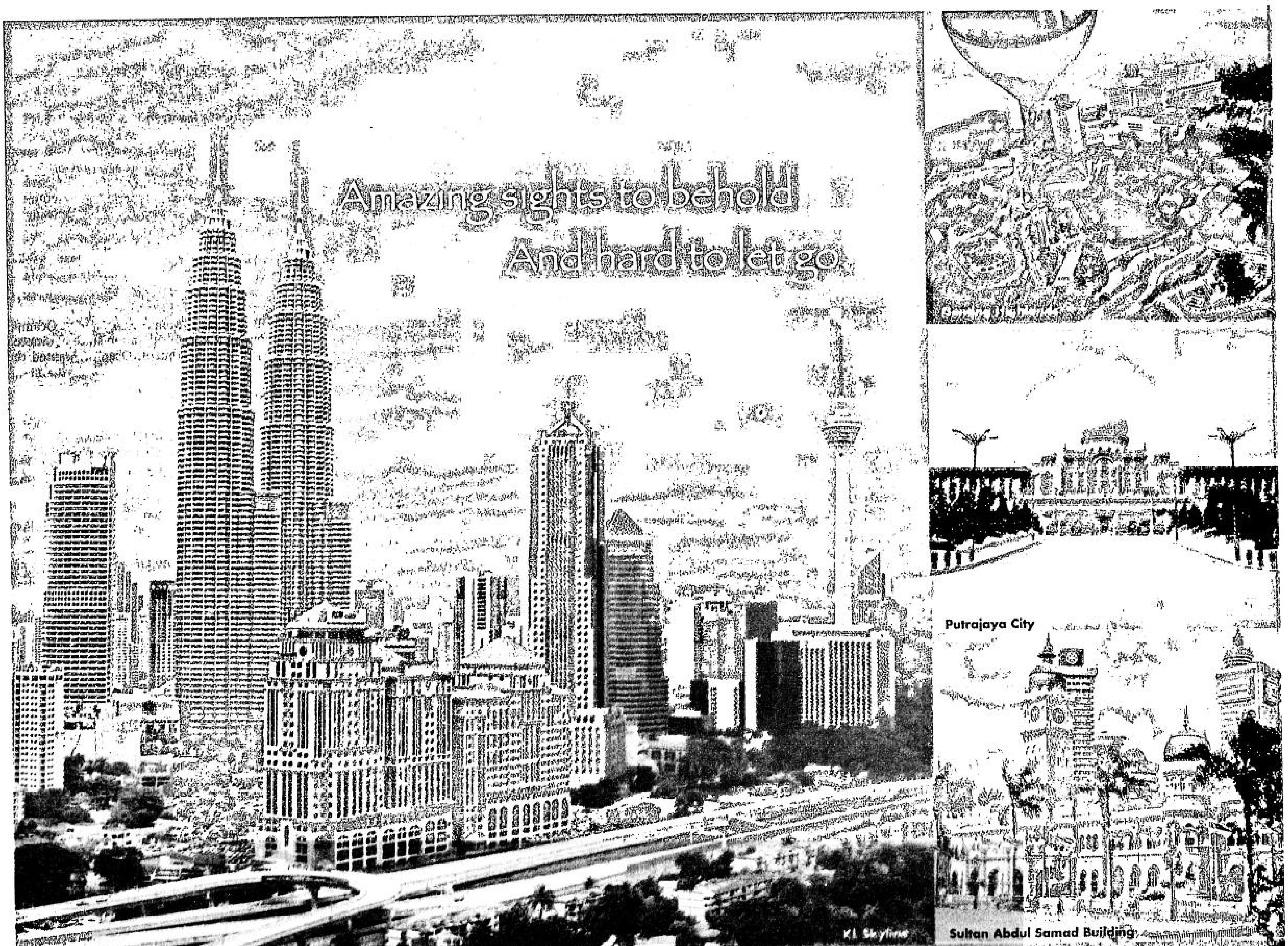

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Palace eyes cutting $1.5B of RP debt

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING cutting as much as $1.5 billion of the country's outstanding debt next year to take advantage of the peso's sizzling run and heavy inflows of remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told the INQUIRER that his department together with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Bureau of the Treasury were looking into paying part of the country's P5.5-trillion debt using savings generated by the unexpected strength of the peso and the surge in dollar reserves due to remittances.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had hinted that President Macapagal-Arroyo was considering this debt reduction plan after meeting with the Filipino Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce during a stopover at the former British territory last week.

"The billions of pesos saved in interest payments could be channeled to more propoor services. Or alternatively, we can partially pre-terminate some of our foreign obligations," Bunye said yesterday.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to Ms Arroyo, said that at the rate the remittances were flowing, the Philippines could afford not to borrow from abroad or issue more bonds for at least one year, which is equivalent to pre-terminating part of the country's debt.

"We have bonds that fall due every year and automatically replace with new borrowings. We can now opt not to make new borrowings because of our strong peso and high dollar reserves," Salceda said.

He proposed a "bond holiday" of up to one year.

Salceda, who projected the peso hitting 50 next year, said remittances should jump 20 percent next year to $18 billion (including $3 billion from informal sources).

Plenty of dollars would be left after the country pays off the oil bill ($4.5 billion), interest payments of foreign loans ($3 billion) and net imports ($1 billion).

Based on these estimates, the Philippines could afford to let go of $1.5 billion in debt next year, Salceda said.

Peso up . . .

From page A1

"The continued peso improvement is due to sustained inflows, particularly from OFW remittances as expected at this time of the year," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

He said overall positive sentiment in the market (due to progress in the government's fiscal consolidation) was also propping up the peso.

Roland Avante, treasurer at Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines, said "some OFWs were quite panicky, sending in more dollars so their recipients can take advantage of a higher exchange rate now before the peso further appreciates."

"Normally, when there's a long weekend, dollar supply builds up so the peso appreciates right after the market reopens, especially if there's not much corporate demand," he said.

The peso last traded at the 53 level on May 5, but weakened thereafter due to political jitters that threatened to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The uncertainties peaked when the Supreme Court suspended the expanded value-added tax law on July 1 and key economic managers led by then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima quit the Cabinet on July 8.

Yen factor

Avante said the peso was also lifted by the strengthening of the Japanese yen against the US dollar.

He said the US dollar had failed to break past the crucial 120 resistance against the yen, thus perking up the regional markets.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said there was pent-up demand for pesos over the long weekend, as OFW households exchanged dollars to meet the Christmas rush.

Since the long Christmas break is still two weeks away, more inflows are likely to pour in, allowing the foreign exchange market to retest the 53.83 level against the greenback, according to Ravales.

Record remittances

The BSP expects remittances from OFWs coursed through banks to hit a record of $10.3 billion by year's end or 20 percent better than the inflows in 2004.

Migrant workers are expected to pump in at least $11.3 billion through banking channels next year, 10 percent higher than the projected contribution this year.

The Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. Most of the remittances are from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Remittances are rising although the number of Filipinos deployed abroad is declining, according to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos.

"It only means one thing—our OFWs are earning more," he said.

Santos acknowledged that a stronger peso would make Philippine exports less competitive, but said that the net impact of the strengthening of the currency would be positive.

Boost exports

"The peso appreciation will not boost exports but at the same time, it will make our import bill drop. For instance, oil accounts for about 37 percent of the country's energy requirements," Santos said.

He said the further strengthening of the peso would result in more interest payment savings for the government.

Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs and a key adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the peso could climb back to as high as 49.50 against the US dollar—its low at the height of the Asian currency turmoil.

But he said OFW inflows were benefiting only the financial sector and were hardly trickling down to the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, which could pump prime the economy and benefit more people.

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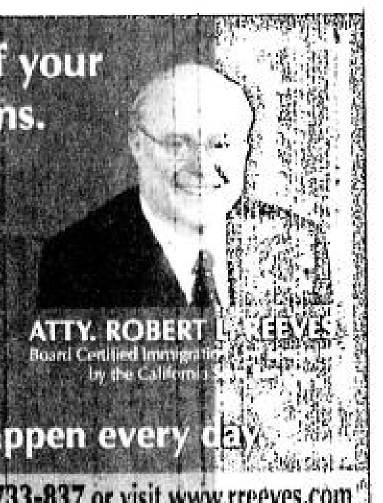

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Dr. Gorospe trained in Internal Medicine and in Medical Oncology at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. To keep her expertise current and state-of-the-art, she underwent observership at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, and has attended post-graduate courses and updates in Athens, Vienna, Hamburg, Barcelona, Madrid, Nice, Copenhagen, Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Antonio, Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans, Florida, Tokyo, Singapore, Penang, and Hanoi. Diplomate and Fellow, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and Philippine College of Physicians. Member, Philippine Society of Oncology and Philippine Society of Molecular Oncology. Member, Board of Trustees, Philippine Foundation for Liver Diseases. Dr. Gorospe is one of the most successful medical oncologists in the country today.

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Oil prices, politics cut growth to 4.1%

From page A1

latest figures meant it would be very unlikely the government would now hit its 5.3-percent GDP growth target for 2005.

Although GDP growth slowed, there was reason to be glad, as the country's gross national product (GNP) grew 6.5 percent, according to Santos. GNP is GDP plus earnings of Filipinos abroad, mainly remittances from workers.

The latest GNP figure was higher than the 5 percent recorded in the second quarter and the 5.7 percent posted in the third quarter of last year.

Santos noted that net factor income from abroad grew 38.7 percent, a significant turnaround from the 0.9-percent decline in the third quarter of 2004.

But the increase in remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) was not enough to prop up personal consumption, which grew 4.8 percent in the third quarter, lower than the 5.5 percent recorded last year.

"It seems families of OFWs are not splurging on the sums remitted, as seen in the steady rates for consumption. Rather, they appear to be saving the money, as hinted by rising growth in rates in financial services," Santos said.

Sluggish exports

Earnings from exports grew only 3.9 percent in the third quarter and 3.1 percent for the first three quarters of the year, way below the 8-percent growth target for the full year. In 2004, exports grew by about 10 percent.

Benjamin Diokno, economics professor at the University of the Philippines, said high oil prices had affected global demand, especially for electronics, the country's major export product.

High international oil prices are forcing consumers to cut down on spending for products that are not considered necessities, according to Diokno.

He said the economy's heavy reliance on electronics, which accounts for about 70 percent of total export earnings, was proving to be a disadvantage in times of weakening global demand.

"Also, it is possible that we are already losing much of our market from competing countries such as China," Diokno told the INQUIRER.

Crimping growth

Agriculture grew 1.8 percent in the third quarter, crimping overall growth.

Services—which includes transportation and communication, trade, finance, real estate, private services and government services—led the way with growth of 5.1 percent, although lower than the 7.8 percent posted in the third quarter last year, National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) officials said at a news conference.

But Santos said the service sector was expected to post robust growth next year, with the continuing boom in the business process outsourcing sector.

The industry sector—composed of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and utilities—grew 3.9 percent, higher than the 3.6 percent recorded in the same period last year.

Floods, bird flu scare

President Macapagal-Arroyo had been counting on agriculture to stage a rebound in the second half to ensure the economy would grow 5.9 percent in the last six months of the year and achieve the 2005 growth target of 5.3 percent.

"The expected rebound in the agriculture sector in the third quarter did not materialize due to floods that delayed harvests," said Dennis Arroyo, director of Neda's policy and planning staff.

He likewise noted the adverse effects of the bird flu scare on demand for poultry products.

Although Ms Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives quashed an impeachment bid against her in September, the opposition is continuing its efforts to unseat her, calling for numerous probes of the executive department.

"The political uncertainty brought about the impeachment case and the volatility of oil prices weighed on the country," Santos said.

He said the political turmoil was "causing some uncertainty for investment decisions."

Rebound

Despite the slowdown, Santos was confident the economy would rebound in the fourth quarter based on recent positive indicators such as tourist arrivals, power consumption and trade data, as well as the recent strong performance of the stock market.

Traditionally the economy posts its strongest growth in the fourth quarter.

Private sector economists said the Philippines was now likely to see full-year growth of well below 5.0 percent but that might be more sustainable than the higher levels targeted.

"I'm looking at full-year GDP growth of 4.3-4.5 percent given that the loans market is very soft and manufacturing is taking a back seat," said Emma Pante, economist and corporate information officer at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

"But this is more sustainable and better than the boom-bust syndrome that we experienced a few years ago," she said. In 2004, the economy grew 6.1 percent.

Economists also noted that the third quarter is usually quiet, as people save up for the yearend holidays and wait for the all important remittances from OFWs, which really give a boost to activity.

Santos said savings, which indicate deferred spending, would augur well for the economy's performance in 2006.

Officials said savings would boost real estate and manufacturing sectors, as well as the educational services industry. *With a report from AFP*

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary
was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

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Container van yields endangered turtle shells, dried sea horses

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD yesterday found nine sacks of turtle shells and 23 sacks of dried sea horses in a container van it seized nearly a month ago on suspicion that it contained contraband items.

The turtle shells and dried sea horses were discovered when the PCG conducted an inventory of the container van's contents yesterday.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources certified yesterday that trade in these two items was illegal.

Sea horses and marine turtles are classified as endangered species, that is, they face a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

The capture, collection, trade and utilization of endangered species are banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and other international agreements.

Section 97 of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 prohibits "fishing or taking of rare, threatened or endangered species."

Marine turtle poaching is punishable by 12 to 20 years' imprisonment.

PCG lawyer Ernesto Lazaro Valdez said the sacks of turtle shells and sea horses were hidden underneath sacks of dried sea cucumbers.

The manifest of the 20-ft container van said that it contained only sea cucumbers worth $7,900, or about P426,0000, that were to be shipped to Vietnam.

The discovery of the turtle shells and sea horses made its owner, identified as Cesar Almendras, not only liable for violating regulations on the trade of endangered species but also for misdeclaring the van's contents.

The van had been in the PCG's custody at the Manila North Harbor since Nov. 2 after the PCG received information that it might contain endangered species.

The PCG explained that it could not inspect the container van's contents immediately as the Bureau of Customs said it had to wait for the owner to appear. When the owner failed to show up after a given period, the BOC gave its permission to open the van.

The PCG was able to conduct the inventory only yesterday after the van was transferred to its National Capital Region headquarters at the Farola compound.

Valdez said the BFAR would take custody of the contraband turtle shells and sea horses.

Malaria still around – DOH

MALARIA, THE OLD mosquito-borne disease many thought had been eradicated, is still around. In fact, it haunts around 11 million Filipinos in 66 of 79 provinces in the country.

Dr. Mario Baquilod, chief of the Department of Health's division for infectious diseases, told reporters yesterday the disease remained endemic in 760 of 1,600 towns and in 9,345 of 42,979 barangays.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the government had been scoring "minor victories" against malaria, especially in 2001 when cases were reduced by 60 percent, from 89,047 in 1990 to 34,787.

But cases began increasing again in 2002 and 2003, Baquilod reported.

In 2003 alone, 162 died out of 48,411 people who got sick with malaria, according to a statement by the World Health Organization.

Most of the cases occurred in Mindanao which has been the focus of the joint "Roll Back Malaria" effort by the WHO, DOH and the Australian government.

The WHO said malaria was most prevalent in the provinces of Palawan, Apayao, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Quirino. They account for more than 67 percent of the total cases and 92 percent of the deaths, the WHO.said.

A total of 25 provinces fall under Category A for registering more than 1,000 cases every year. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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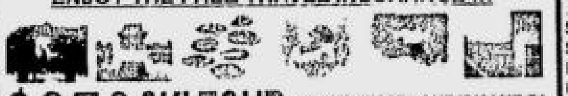

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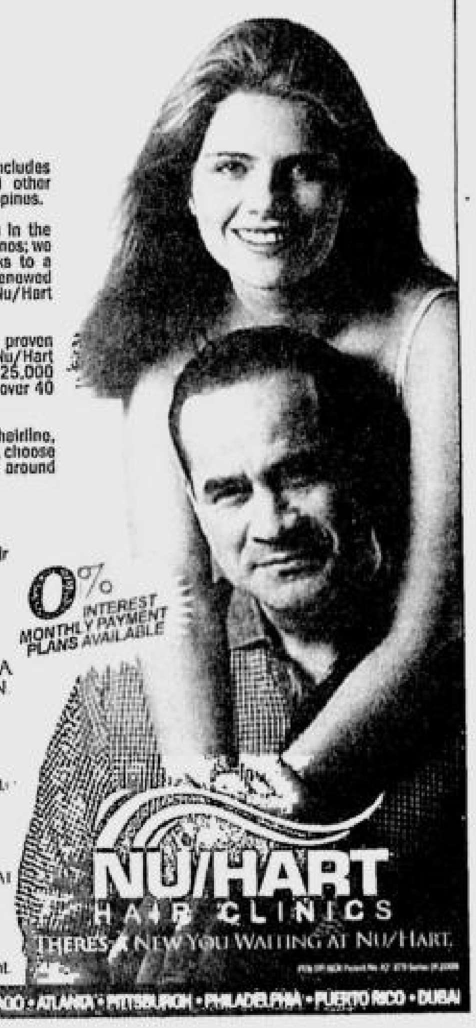
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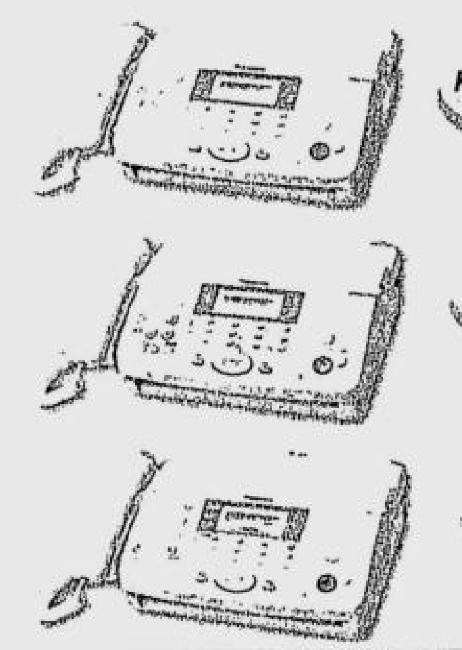

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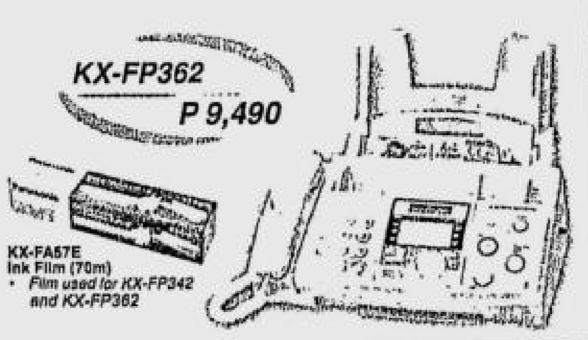

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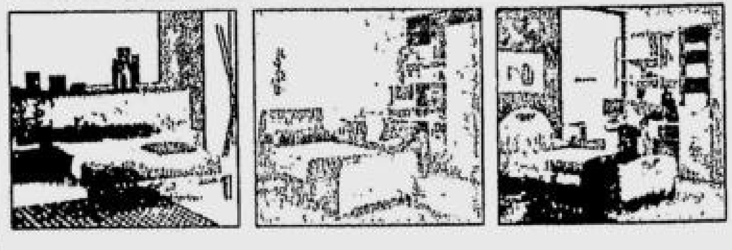

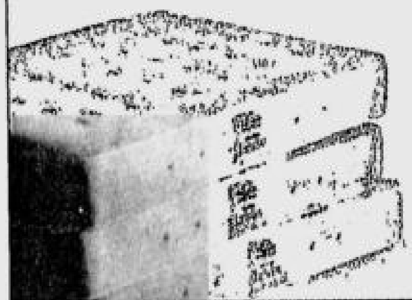

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HIV/AIDS spreading across Asia, says WHO

DRUG USE AND PROSTITUTION are driving the HIV/AIDS epidemic across Asia and the Pacific, including China, where the virus has spread to all 31 provinces and regions despite efforts to contain it, the World Health Organization warned Tuesday.

WHO regional director Shigeru Omi, in a statement marking World Aids Day on Thursday, called on member states "to act boldly and urgently" to change the course of the epidemic.

5M people infected

Despite measures to prevent the HIV virus from spreading, 5 million people worldwide were needlessly infected last year, adding to the 40 million already living with the virus, the WHO said.

In the Western Pacific, 1.5 million people live with HIV/AIDS, and nearly all countries in the region have epidemics focusing on people with high-risk behaviors.

The virus has spread to all 31 provinces and autonomous regions in China, the world's most populous country, the WHO said, warning that some 10 million Chinese may be infected by 2010.

Needle sharing among drug users is the main route of HIV transmission in China, Vietnam and Malaysia, the WHO said.

In Malaysia alone, three-quarters of all reported infections were contracted via injecting drugs.

Cambodia has the highest national prevalence rate in Asia, with 1.9 percent of the population suffering from HIV.

"We know what works and what doesn't. So why has the necessary action to prevent the virus from spreading not been taken?" Omi asked. "Why is the epidemic still growing and not reversing?"

The United Nations has set a number of goals in response to HIV/AIDS, including reversing the epidemic by 2015 and the so-called "3 by 5" goal of providing antiretroviral treatment to 3 million people living with HIV in developing countries by the end of 2005.

Antiretroviral therapy

Progress has been made with access to antiretroviral therapy, with one million people in developing countries receiving it as of June this year. In Asia, the number of people receiving treatment increased by 50 percent in the first half of 2005 to 150,000, or roughly one in seven of those who need it.

WHO said that despite the progress, the "3 by 5" initiative is still short of its target. *AP*

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MiG Ayesa returns to rock RP for AIDS

THE MUCH-AWAITED live performance for his Filipino fans of Filipino-Australian rock star MiG Ayesa will finally happen on Dec. 1 when he top-bills the "2005 MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS" concert at the Open Field in Fort Bonifacio.

Ayesa arrived with his wife, Simone, early yesterday from Los Angeles where he was in the midst of producing an album for Universal Records.

But Ayesa agreed to travel half-way across the world for the second time in less than two weeks so he could perform at this concert.

"It's (AIDS/HIV) something that concerns me greatly. If there's anything I can do to help the cause and be part of the push forward to eradicate AIDS from the face of the earth, any time," Ayesa said in an interview at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ayesa said he has had friends who had died from the disease.

In a statement, MTV said the concert, which is now on its third year, should also be "seen as a celebration of life."

"The MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS serves as a call for everyone to take a united stand against the ignorance that prevails about HIV/AIDS," MTV said.

Among the facts that MTV would like to highlight is that "every 15 seconds, a young person between the ages of 15 and 24 is infected with HIV."

Through music, MTV hopes young Filipinos will become more aware of HIV/AIDS which continues to be a global threat.

Ayesa, who quickly gained a loyal fan following during the recent "Rock Star: INXS" reality show competition, will be "jamming" with some of the best local bands at the concert, according to an MTV representative who met him at the airport.

Nikko Dizon

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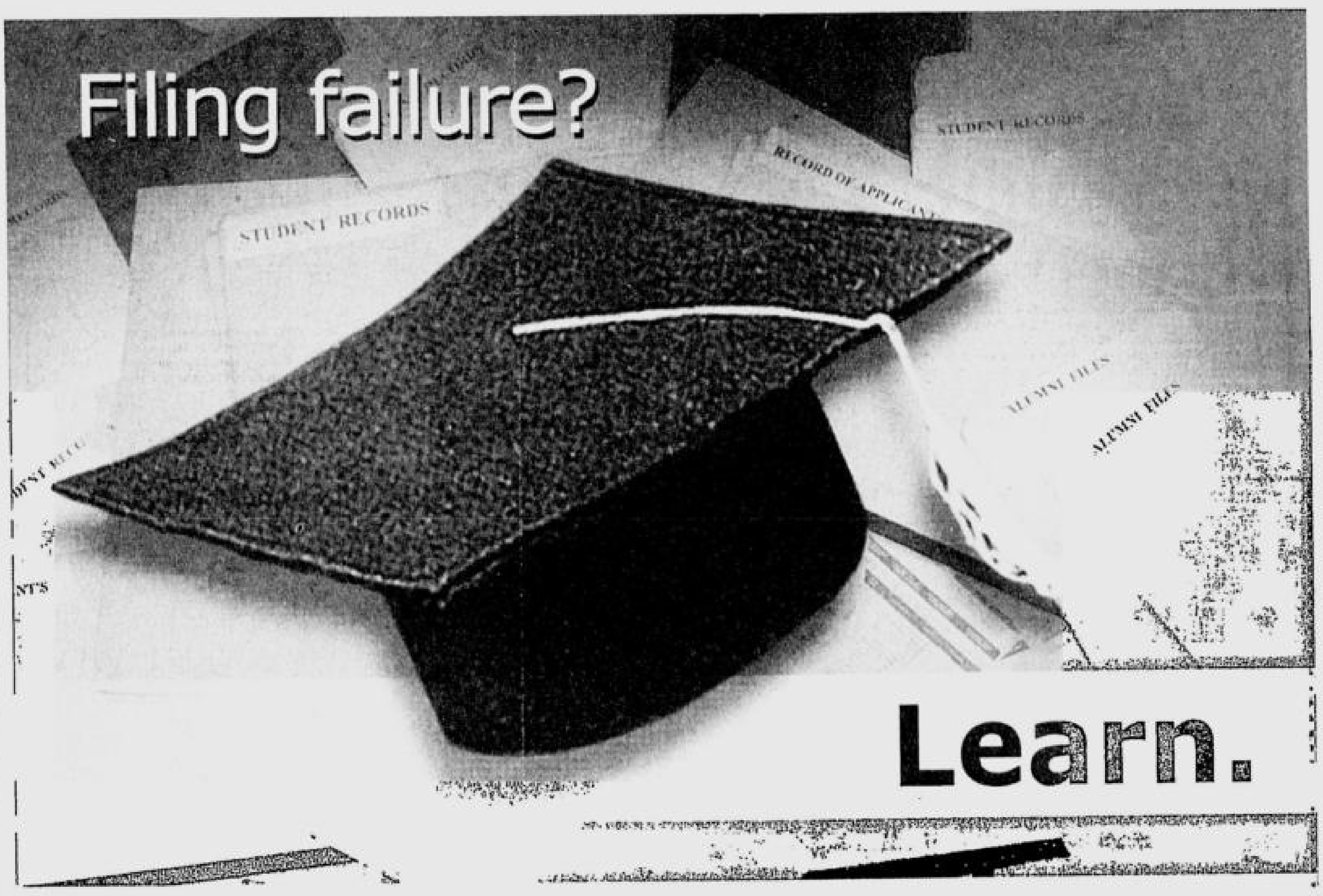

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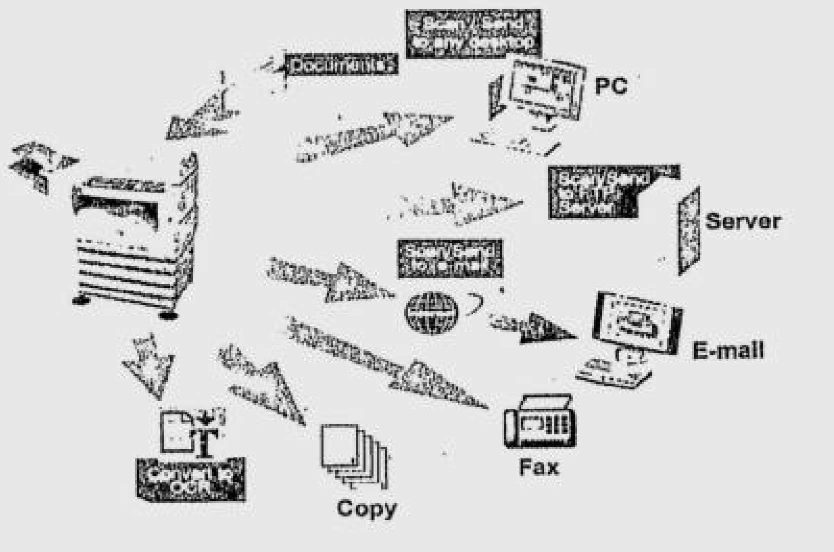

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134 dead, 15 trapped in China mine blast

QITAIHE, CHINA—AN EXPLOSION AT A COAL mine in remote northeastern China killed 134 workers and left another 15 trapped underground, state media said Monday, amid frantic rescue efforts to find survivors.

A total of 221 miners were underground when the blast and cave-in occurred about 9:40 p.m. (1340 GMT) Sunday at the state-run Dongfeng coal mine, near Qitaihe City in Heilongjiang province, not far from the Russian border.

However, after a day of intense rescue efforts, 72 survivors had been pulled from the rubble, said the semi-official China News Service.

The official Xinhua news agency, which gave the same casualty toll, said 38 of the survivors are being treated in a hospital.

Officials at the mine refused to detail the situation or the death toll, but video on China Central Television showed gaping holes in numerous places at the mine site where explosions had ripped through the earth.

"It's all the management's fault," a woman surnamed Ge, whose nephew and brother-in-law were among the missing, told AFP outside the gates of the mine.

"They knew all along that there were safety problems but they wouldn't do anything about it." A dozen other relatives of those missing hung around the mine gates in temperatures near 15 degrees below zero Celsius, some crying or sobbing and others refusing to speak with journalists.

Ambulances were seen rushing out of the mine gates.

"We just had a meeting, the rescue work is going on," a man who refused to identify himself, other than as a mine worker, told AFP.

"They said that some 70 miners have been rescued." China News Service said rescue teams of 380 people were involved in the search for those still trapped.

Investigators said the accident was caused by a coal-dust explosion, which knocked out all the ventilation systems in the pit, according to Xinhua.

A coal-dust explosion is often caused when there is a gas blast, which ignites the coal dust suspended in the air or stuck on walls, Professor Rui Susheng from the China Coal Research Institute told AFP.

Senior officials of the communist party's Central Committee and State Council (cabinet) ordered rescuers to save the trapped miners "at all costs", Xinhua said.

It said the Heilongjiang provincial government had ordered safety checks on all mines and vowed to close unsafe ones immediately .

Heilongjiang Longmei Group, a mining conglomerate of four major state-owned coal businesses with a registered capital of 13 billion yuan ($1.6 billion), owns the Dongfeng mine, Xinhua said.

Although many of the accidents in China's coal industry occur in illegal mines, the work safety watchdog said the Dongfeng mine was fully licensed. *AFP*

REP. Randy "Duke" Cunningham cries while reading a statement outside the federal courthouse in San Diego Monday. AP

US legislator pleads guilty to bribery

LOS ANGELES—REP. RANDY CUNNINGham, a Republican from San Diego, resigned from Congress on Monday, hours after pleading guilty to taking at least $2.4 million in bribes to help friends and campaign contributors win defense contracts.

Cunningham, a highly decorated Navy fighter pilot in Vietnam, tearfully acknowledged his guilt in a statement read outside the federal courthouse in San Diego.

"The truth is, I broke the law, concealed my conduct and disgraced my office," the eight-term congressman known for his emotional outbursts and combative conservatism said. "I know that I will forfeit my freedom, my reputation, my worldly possessions and, most importantly, the trust of my friends and family."

Cunningham, 63, pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion and one count of conspiracy to commit bribery, tax evasion, wire fraud and mail fraud. He faces up to 10 years in prison and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines and forfeitures.

Prosecutors said he received cash, cars, rugs, antiques, furniture, yacht club fees, moving expenses and vacations from four unnamed co-conspirators in exchange for aid in winning defense contracts. None of this income was reported to the Internal Revenue Service or on the congressman's financial disclosure forms, the government said.

Cunningham, who is known as Duke, lived while in Washington on a 42-foot yacht, named the Duke-Stir, owned by Mitchell J. Wade, the founder of MZM Inc., a defense contracting firm that received tens of millions of dollars in federal contracts that prosecutors said Cunningham helped steer its way. *New York Times*

EU states with CIA jails face sanctions

BERLIN—EUROPEAN UNION JUSTICE COMmissioner Franco Frattini threatened sanctions on Monday for any EU nation found to have allowed secret CIA prison camps to operate on their soil.

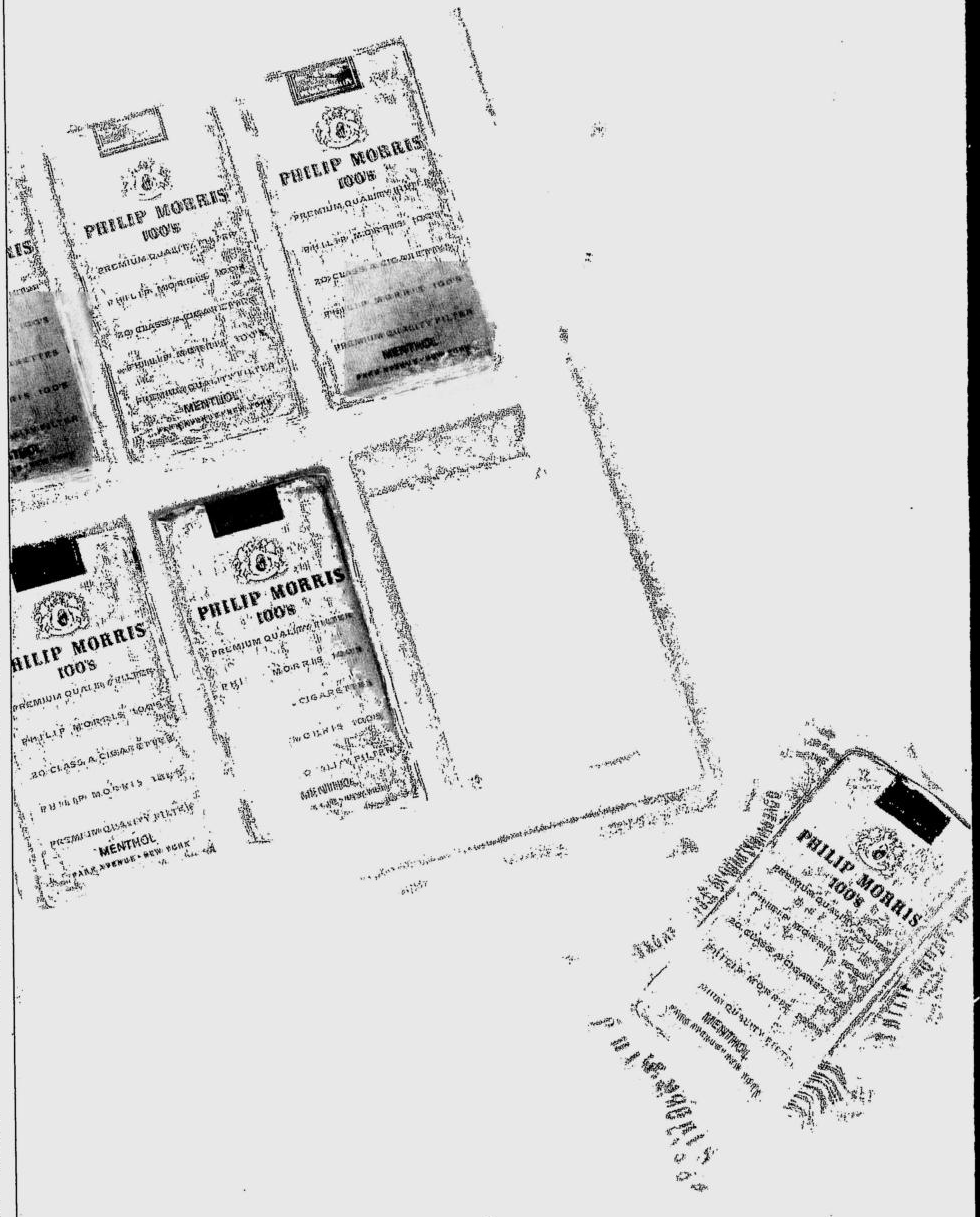
"Should the accusations be accurate, I would be forced to draw serious consequences," Frattini said at a security conference in Berlin.

He said any EU country found to have harbored one of the reported prison camps could have their voting rights in the Council of Ministers suspended. Frattini said the operation of such camps on EU soil would violate the bloc's rules governing freedom and human rights.

The EU had made contact several days ago with the White House about possible secret CIA activities in Europe, but Washington had "unfortunately not yet given any formal assurance" that the reports were untrue, he said.

The US State Department said Monday it was ready to answer queries "in as complete and forthright a manner as we possibly can" as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced a trip to Europe next week.

"We have received inquiries concerning these press reports and we're going to do our best to answer these questions in as complete and forthright a manner as we possibly can," State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said. *AFP*



Government Warnin
is dangerous

A RESCUER carries a miner to safety after an explosion at the Dongfeng coal mine. AFP

Martin-led Canadian gov't toppled

OTTAWA—CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER Paul Martin's embattled Liberal minority government was ousted by a no-confidence vote late Monday in Parliament, kicking off a likely frosty election campaign over the Christmas holiday.

Canada's three opposition parties, who had threatened for months to topple the government amid acrimonious exchanges in the House of Commons over Liberal Party corruption allegations, voted 171 to 133 to force an election.

Voters are likely go to the polls either Jan. 16 or Jan. 23, 2006.

Three Canadian minority governments were previously felled by no-confidence votes, but Martin's Liberals were the first ever to fall on a stand-alone censure motion.

The motion comes after Martin rejected an opposition ultimatum to promise to dissolve Parliament in January.

He had instead pledged to call an election in March or April, 30 days after the release of a final report on a government funding scandal involving the previous Liberal government.

But New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton withdrew his crucial support for the Liberals soon after the release of a damning preliminary report on the scandal in early November.

The Liberals are accused of receiving kickbacks from advertising firms awarded millions of dollars in government contracts from 1995 to 2002, during the government of then-prime minister Jean Chrétien, to counter a separatist movement in the French-speaking province of Quebec.

Martin was finance minister at the time, but was exonerated by a judicial inquiry. Still, the scandal cost the Liberals a fourth consecutive majority government last year.

Most now predict another Liberal minority government, including two of Canada's most influential conservative leaders, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and former Prime Minister Joe Clark whose government was the last to be forced out in 1979 and face a winter election.

But with the Conservatives close behind in opinion polls, the last days of Martin's Liberal government have been marked by threats of lawsuits and ugly rhetoric that has pundits predicting the most vicious election campaign in the country's history.

Already, the Liberals have threatened to sue Conservative members of Parliament for "false smears" that linked the party to organized crime, while Liberals slung mud themselves.

Conservative leader Stephen Harper called the Liberals "a party named in a judicial inquiry" and "found guilty of breaking every conceivable law in the province of Quebec with the help of organized crime." Liberal House Leader Tony Valeri shot back, calling the Conservatives "narrow, angry people" who offered "half truths and innuendo" and would reverse decades of progress in Canada "in the name of some right-wing ideology." Both sides predicted worse to come.

Valeri also blasted the Conservatives for collaborating with the separatist Bloc Quebecois to bring down the government while others peddled insults such as "sleazebag" and "anti-immigrant" to describe their opponents.

With separatist sentiment on the rise again in Quebec, in part because of the Liberal scandal, federalists fear being locked out of the province. *AFP*

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Toxic Chinese chemical spill flows into Russia

KHABAROVSK, RUSSIA—TOXIC BENZENE that spilled into a river after a blast at a chemical factory in China earlier this month has flowed into Russia where authorities were weighing whether to shut off public water supplies in this Far East city, officials said Monday.

Analyses carried out since Sunday in a branch of the Amur river west of Khabarovsk showed benzene levels "are slightly above environmental norms," Oleg Mitvol, deputy head of Russia's natural resources management agency, told AFP.

In Moscow, a spokesperson for the same agency, Yevgeny Snegiryov, confirmed that amounts of benzene detected in the river were so far up to twice the permitted level and could be expected to rise over the coming three days as the poison slick flows into the region.

Asked whether the benzene found was that from the chemical factory in China, Snegiryov said: "That is our preliminary conclusion." He said it was based in part on the fact that there are no chemical factories in Russia upstream from the city of Khabarovsk, which is home to around 600,000 people.

The contamination could potentially affect more than one million people in more than 70 outlying towns and villages in the Khabarovsk region, but President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to the Russian Far East, Kamil Iskhakov, has been assuring residents there was no need for panic.

He and other officials have said the area has received plentiful stocks of clean water in bottles or cisterns that would be distributed for free if needed and have promised to prevent any price-gouging on bottled water.

A spokesperson for the ministry for emergency situations said a cargo plane carrying 20 tons of charcoal for use in water purification and cleaning of water treatment facilities in the region was on its way to Khabarovsk. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

China bird flu outbreaks

BEIJING—China has confirmed two new outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in poultry in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and in central Hunan province. China has culled more than 20 million birds this year to contain the spread of avian influenza and has reported 24 outbreaks since mid-October in nine regions and provinces from the far southwest to the frigid northeast. Three people have been confirmed infected with the H5N1 avian flu virus, two of whom have died. The Ministry of Agriculture said on its Web site that 288 birds that died last week in Shanshan country in Xinjiang and 402 poultry that died in Yongzhou earlier this month were confirmed to have H5N1. The two provinces had earlier outbreaks of bird flu. *Reuters*

1,000th US execution

WASHINGTON—The United States is scheduled this week to witness its 1,000th execution since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, but even as it reaches this milestone opponents said capital punishment may be falling out of favor. Some 997 people have been put to death since the Supreme Court ended a 10-year moratorium on capital punishment that ran from 1967-1977. With five people scheduled for execution in five different states this week, it seems almost certain that the landmark of 1,000 will be passed. "This is a time for somber and sober reflection but the United States is slowly turning away from the death penalty," said David Elliot of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. *Reuters*

Saddam trial resumes

BAGHDAD—A defiant Saddam Hussein on Monday exchanged angry words with the presiding judge and heard testimony from the first prosecution witness as the trial of the former Iraqi dictator resumed after a 40-day break. After barely two hours in session, the court was adjourned to Dec. 5 to give time for one of Saddam's seven co-defendants to appoint his own defence lawyer. Dressed in a smart Western suit with a white handkerchief neatly folded into the top pocket, Saddam engaged in an angry opening skirmish with judge Rizkar Mohammed Amin over his treatment at the high-security Baghdad courthouse, set up in the former headquarters of Saddam's Baath party. He complained he had been forced to walk the stairs into the courtroom as the lift was broken and had been put in handcuffs on the way to the court, making it hard for him to carry a copy of the Koran. *AFP*

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OPINION

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Hello!?

EDITORIAL

IF YESTERDAY WE LISTED THE OBSTACLES IN THE way of finally hearing Virgilio Garcillano's version of events, today we must consider the difficulties the man himself has put forward. Foremost of the problems is the man's refusal to see himself as subject to an accounting before the people. Instead, he considers himself the victim of persecution, and of possible liquidation.

Garcillano is not the victim. The public is. Garcillano can provide the answers; indeed, he must see he owes the country an explanation. The public cannot answer things for him, or be expected to view him with sympathy. Garcillano is the one with a lot of explaining to do, not Congress and not the Filipino people.

Garcillano is in the same position as someone accused of conspiracy to defraud the public who turns on his accusers and says he would testify only if the following conditions are met. First, that he no longer be considered a suspect. Second, that he should not be subjected to arrest or investigation, much less a trial. Third, that not being a suspect, and being freed from all liability for the fraud he was originally accused of, the fraud itself should be declared to have never taken place. Then—and only then, he says—will he answer questions.

But testify on what? Never mind the gall of a suspect demanding that he become a resource person: by his demands, he would make any investigation, or inquiry, an exercise in futility.

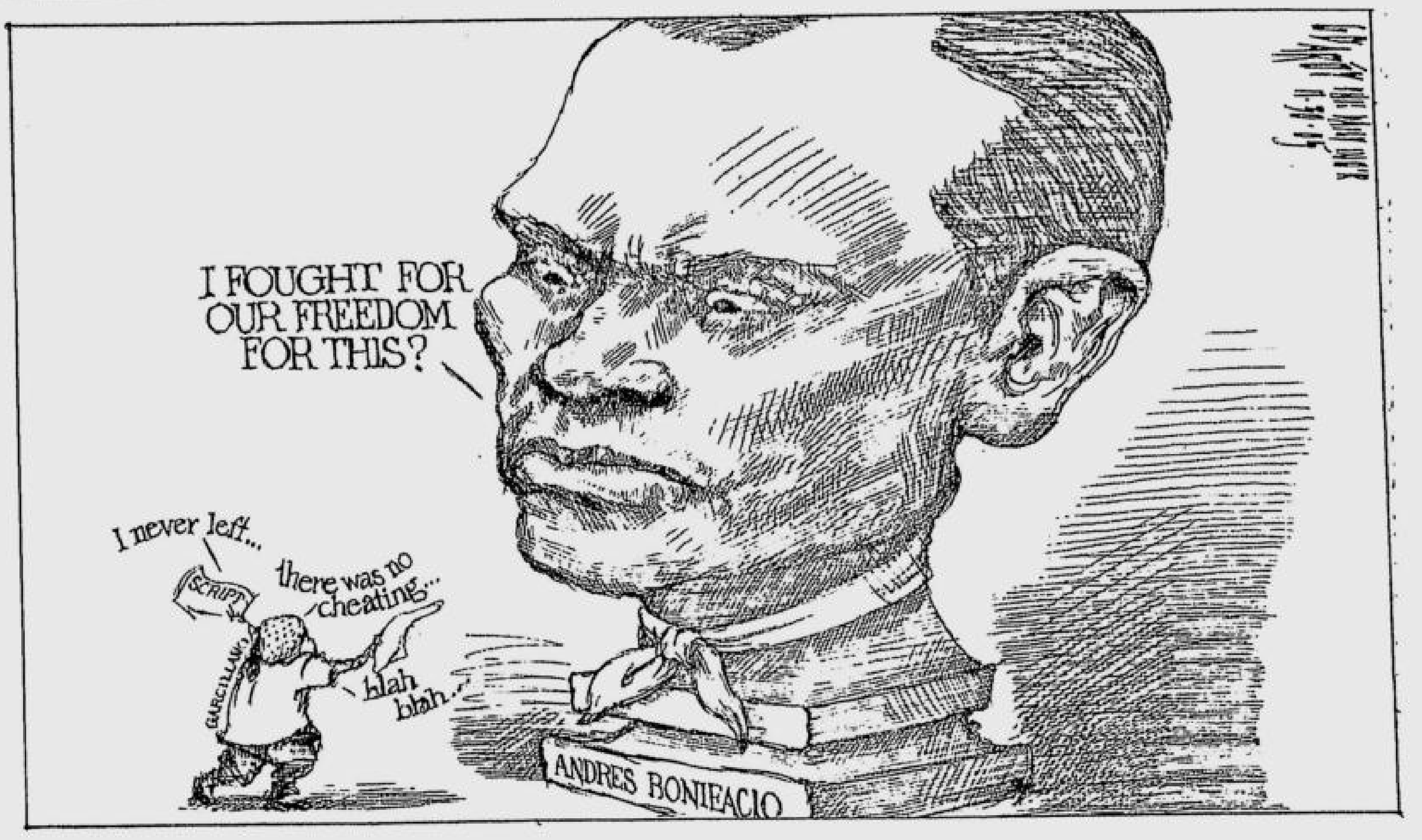
By all means, Garcillano is entitled not only to assert his innocence, but to use every forum to prove it. The operative word here, though, is "prove." The burden of proof is (fairly or not) on Garcillano. In the eyes of not just the law, but common sense, he already torpedoed his own defense by fleeing. Now he comes forward, interestingly enough, saying that his flight was made necessary because he feared both the administration and the opposition. It may be that his first instinct was to seek sanctuary by submitting himself to the custody of the clergy. It may be that his first option was thwarted precisely by the administration (or the opposition) engaged in a manhunt. It may be that "preventive custody" made it impossible to speak out until now.

Even if this were so, it underlines the need for him to offer testimony with only one, absolute guarantee: that of his physical safety. And if that is, indeed, his strategy—to obtain as many concessions as possible, prior to submitting to questioning—those concessions must be linked to the quality and the truthfulness of his testimony. After all, once he has spilled the beans, he becomes much less useful to any interested party. When the full story of his long odyssey of evading public scrutiny is written, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Garcillano's life and career will be his having survived this long.

He cannot play things out by continuing to bargain. A major concession seems to be in the works, with at least two chairpersons of the five House committees investigating the "Hello, Garci" tapes saying they will move to withdraw the warrant of arrest, so long as he testifies. Under the law, only the least culpable party in a crime can offer to turn state witness. The worst (or best, depending on partisan affiliations) case scenario is that the mastermind was President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano was merely an accessory. Then again, a much larger conspiracy crossing party lines might just be revealed or, why not, if only for the sake of argument, that nothing happened at all.

This last and most remote possibility, however, must be proven. It cannot, as lawyers put it, be stipulated as an agreed-upon conclusion prior to an actual hearing. The facts, such as they might be revealed, must point to a conclusion. We cannot have a conclusion first, and have facts selected and edited to prove it.

At the beginning of this crisis, we urged Ms Arroyo to live up to her own rhetoric about letting "the chips fall where they may." She did not do it. Will Garcillano do what she has not done? There is a large body of admittedly circumstantial evidence—some of them of his own doing—indicating he was up to no good during the last elections. He has to speak up without mental reservation or equivocation. There is no other way. But so far all his conditions and recollection of events only make people say in frustration, "Hello!?"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I never left...
SCRIPT
there was no cheating...
GARCILLANO
blah blah...
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Puno is most senior justice

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WEATHER FORECAST: WHEN FUGITIVE Ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano testifies at the congressional hearings, there will be plenty of lightning and thunder. In fact, senators (but not pro-administration congressmen) should keep a safe distance from Garci: there may be lightning strikes in his immediate vicinity while he is testifying.

Garci and his friends are already trying to make fools of the Filipino people. He said he never left the Philippines even if Singapore has official records showing that he entered the city-state on July 14, 2005 and then left for Europe a few days later. Who are we going to believe, Garci or the Singaporean government?

Garci now denies he talked to Ate Glue to cheat, but the latter has already admitted talking to him on the phone and in fact apologized for it on television. Who are we going to believe, Garci or Ate Glue?

He said he is not "accepting that there was such (wiretapped) conversations" between him and Ate Glue, but he also demanded that the tapes not be used as evidence against him because he is the victim. Now which is which, was his conversation tapped or not?

Michaelangelo Zuce, a witness to the cheating, is right: He and Garci should be subjected to a lie detector test to determine who is lying. In fact, all witnesses should be strapped to a lie detector. Because it seems that lying is an accepted practice in this administration.

* * *

Many Filipinos were scared stiff when it was reported last week that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was being nominated for the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court. Fortunately, the deadline for the submission by the Judicial and Bar Council of the list of nominees to the President had lapsed and it voted down a proposal to extend the deadline. Although many outsiders have been appointed associate justices (in fact, too many), this is the first time an outsider was going to be appointed chief justice.

Had that nightmare materialized, it would have been one more big blow to the Supreme Court, already hurt by several controversies, among them the questionable decision that President Joseph Estrada had resigned although there was no existing resignation letter and the very slow administration of justice.

It is a Court tradition that the most senior justice succeeds as chief justice. This seniority rule has been violated only twice: first, during the Japanese Occupation, and then, during martial law.

Being chief justice is the Holy Grail of justices, judges and lawyers. In fact, just being associate justice is the ambition of judges and lawyers. It is what keeps them on the straight and narrow. Had Miriam been appointed chief justice, none of the present associate justices could have made it to the top post. All of them would reach the compulsory retirement age before Miriam does, and she would probably have the longest reign. Worse, it would have disappointed, discouraged and disillusioned lower court judges and lawyers aspiring for a seat in the Supreme Court. And you know what happens to the administration of justice when judges suffer low morale.

Right now, the most senior associate justice, both in the tribunal and in the judiciary, is Justice Reynato Puno. He rose from the ranks and during his 34 years of government service, he carved a name as a most accomplished career official. He was first appointed acting city judge of Quezon City in 1972, at the age of 32, rose through the Office of the Solicitor General to the Court of Appeals and to the Ministry of Justice as deputy. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993 at the age of 53. He distinguished himself as associate justice with his erudite ponencias and is now one of the most respected justices.

Next to him in seniority are Justices Artemio Panganiban and Norberto Quisumbing who were appointed in 1995 and 1998, respectively.

* * *

Here is some good news: A local pharmaceutical company, United Laboratories, will manufacture the anti-bird flu medicine Tamiflu, the only weapon so far against the disease and donate it to the government on condition that it would be given free, not sold, to those who need it. The anti-bird flu medicine is manufactured by Roche, a multinational company, but it cannot produce enough to meet world demand. Many countries are stockpiling the medicine because of the threat of an avian flu pandemic.

It was found out that Roche has no patent for the medicine in the Philippines, so Unilab and other Filipino pharmaceutical companies are free to manufacture it. The problem is that the raw material comes from a plant that grows only in mainland China. Unilab is buying its raw material from India, which buys it from China. Unilab will try to grow the plant in the Cordilleras, which has a climate similar to China's, and so the people there will grow this plant instead of marijuana. Unilab hopes other drug companies will do the same so that we will be amply supplied with the medicine if and when bird flu strikes here.

In fact, many Filipino drug firms can follow the example of Unilab, which is producing generic versions of medicines sold by multinationals at exorbitant prices. The Philippines has one of the highest costs of medicines in the world. But Unilab sells its generic versions for as much as 50 to 70 percent less.

There are many expensive, imported medicines that are already off-patent but the multinationals are still selling them at high prices. Filipino drug firms can produce them cheaper to give Filipino patients a break.

Liar, liar

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

MONTHS AGO, THE SITUATION WAS THIS:

A husband finds his wife in bed with another man. He is furious and wants her out of his life. But she defends herself by saying it is not what he thinks.

How did the fellow get to be in the same room with her? Well, the wife answers, he happened to pass by the neighborhood and she greeted him. They got to talking but the neighbors being known to gossip, she invited him in to protect her reputation. How did they get to end up naked in bed? Well, it had started to drizzle outside and she suggested that they take their clothes off and let them dry by the fire before they caught pneumonia. How did they end up in a clinch in bed? Well, he began to shiver and she deemed it Christian to make him lie down and put her arms around him to keep him warm. What was all the moaning and groaning he (the husband) heard? Well, it was a dark and windy night, he was probably hearing the sobs of Nature.

When the husband turns to the interloper to interrogate him, he finds that he has vanished. His determined search for the fellow in the yard yields nothing. But his wife's father and brothers being the officials of the neighborhood, he is certain they helped the fellow escape. Meanwhile his wife gets bolder and accosts him, demanding to know how he got to see them in bed to begin with. He says a neighbor told him. She answers angrily that that same neighbor had been trying to get her to go to bed with him for some time now. How he could possibly have believed that neighbor is a testament only to his own maliciousness.

Today, the situation has this added development:

The interloper finally appears, and says he never disappeared to begin with. He has just been in the neighborhood all this time. If his neighbors could not see him, or if the respectable members of another community swear they saw him lurking in their premises, that is their problem, not his. As to his having been in bed with the man's wife, that never happened at all. It is a complete fabrication. In any case, even if it did happen, what of it? She would not have been the first wife he had been in bed with. Many other wives in the neighborhood have been earnestly seducing him. One of these days, he is going to write his memoirs and tell all.

That in nearly all its detail and in all its monumental absurdity is the exact parallel of the Garci affair. What was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo doing talking to Virgilio Garcillano, a Comelec official, which is as much a taboo for presidents as sleeping around is for married people? She did so, she said, because she was "anxious to protect my votes," which is as believable as a wife inviting another man to her room to protect her reputation. What was that about winning by a million votes? It was nothing, she merely wanted to know if she would still have that margin at the end of the day. Wasn't the entire substance of that conversation as compromising as being in bed with another man? Not at all. It was a temporary "lapse in judgment," it meant nothing, it was an innocent exchange of ideas, not of body heat. Don't we have the physical evidence of the tape to assure us the crime happened? Ah, but we shouldn't believe our ears, that tape was manufactured, spliced, doctored, etc. Maybe we should have our ears cleaned.

When we turned to Garci to question him, he vanished like a thief in the night. Not a hair or hide of him was to be seen. Meanwhile, GMA got bolder and accosted her critics demanding to know how they got the tape. She accused them of malice, of calling up Garci to cheat, of being desperate to seduce the presidency themselves. She did not commit a crime, she was the victim of a crime. The public would do better improving their minds, or their lives.

To add surrealism to farce, Garcillano now materializes saying he never dematerialized to begin with. He was just there in his hometown going about his daily business, living with his duly constituted wife. Why nobody saw him and why he never came out to clear up the mess that compelled his boss to apologize in public are not his problem. It is not his fault if people cannot see him. If Singapore, a country that still believes it can trust its eyes, says it saw him slip into its shores, that is its problem, not his. Indeed, he never talked to GMA to discuss the vote. The "Hello Garci" exchange never took place. It is a complete fabrication. And even if it wasn't, what of it? The opposition candidates talked to him about the votes, too. One of these days, he will come out to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

It is pure theater of the absurd. Finding the inconsistencies, the contradictions, the flaws in Garci's version of the story is not the problem. The lie is patent. There is no attempt at credibility anymore. The real problem is why, or how, Garci is able to do this. The brazenness, the temerity, the sheer gall is breathtaking. One is tempted to say that GMA is truly contagious: You have a boss who can lie in your face without batting an eyelash, a thing we used to think only Marcos could do, you will lie without batting an eyelash too, whether you have an eyelash or not. But it's more than that.

It is simply that the citizens are presumed to be incapable of doing anything about it. Government's policy is no longer to tell the truth and ask the citizens to uphold it. It is to tell a lie and let the citizens try to disprove it. Indeed, more than that, even when the citizens do disprove it because it is the simplest thing to do so, government's policy is to simply refuse to entertain it. The principle is: "*Basta*, this is the truth. It is so because we say it is so."

"*Basta*" is probably the root word of "*bastos*." There's Garci to think that's gospel truth.

If truth hurts, lies hurt even more

COMMENTARY

Rosary Diane B. Maligalig
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FOR A WHILE, I BECAME ONE OF THE THOUSANDS of Filipinos affected by the political crisis who just took everything in stride. I became almost apathetic. There were invitations to join rallies, protests, mass actions and the like, but I couldn't bear to join any of them simply because I did not know what I personally stood for.

Enlightenment came when I was tasked to interview some residents in Payatas and Baseco about their opinions on what has been happening in the country. Almost all the interviewees agreed that life is hard nowadays. One helper from Baseco said, "*Yung anak na isisilang ngayon, may utang na* (A child who will be born today is already in debt)." What she said pretty much gives us a picture of how life in the Philippines is and how it has become harder to live from day to day.

Most of the interviewees from both areas agreed that the continuous oil price hikes have had a big adverse effect on their lives. Expenses like carfare and the prices of basic commodities especially food, have gone up. A housewife from Baseco said that since she has six children and her husband has no work, her family is only able to eat twice a day. Another housewife from Payatas said that whereas before she and her children were able to eat more nutritious food, nowadays they have to settle for small fishes for their viand because that was all their budget could afford.

The interviews I conducted made me realize that the economic and political crisis is more than just the weakening of the peso in the world market or the switching of sides of our political leaders. It is something deeper than that—an issue of trust, a moral crisis.

I have always believed that it is impossible to have a relationship with anyone without trust, whether it is with a significant other, a family member, a friend, a colleague, and most especially a president. Once the person with whom you have a relationship breaks your trust, an apology will not restore what has been lost. It starts with simple things, like kickbacks from government projects or paying off the policeman after a traffic violation.

A merchandiser from Payatas pointed out that fees collected for pre-employment requirements like those for police and NBI clearances are too high. "*Saan pupunta 'yan* (Where will it go)?" he asked. He also said that the expanded value-added tax that was recently implemented is a good program, but then again, he voiced doubts regarding where the proceeds of this new tax measure will go.

It is apparent from the answers of the other interviewees that they have lost their trust in our government. A couple even suggested that the solution to this crisis is a snap election so that our top officials can be replaced. Why? Because according to them, the leader that the people want should be the one elected. One interviewee stressed: "*Kung magkakaroon tayo ng mamumuno sa ating bansa na walang hinaharap na mga kaso, siguro matutugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga mahihirap* (If the person who will lead our country does not have any case against him/her, maybe he/she will be able to attend to the needs of the poor)." Another interviewee said: "*Maraming programa ang gobyerno, napupunta lang sa namamahala sa programa 'yung mga tulong na para sa mahihirap. Puro lang 'yan* propaganda (The government has many programs, but the funding for these programs which are supposedly for the poor go to those who are in charge of the programs. That's all propaganda)."

Clearly, most of us do not trust our government. We question where our tax contributions go. We doubt who really won the last elections. We wonder if we will still be able to survive this crisis. These doubts are more prevalent than the belief in the promises made by government officials that they will do everything they can to make life better for us Filipinos.

While losing trust might spell disaster or even end some relationships, it may also pave the way for a better relationship. Maybe if we all started with a clean slate, things would turn for the better. Maybe if we helped each other, it would spell the difference. As one respondent in Baseco said, "*Sa ganitong problema, hindi naman malulutas ng isang tao 'yan. Kinakailangang magtulungan* (Given the kind of problems we face, they cannot be solved by only one person. We need to help each other)."

It is often said that the truth hurts. However, I would like to add that while the truth hurts, lies hurt even more. Perhaps it is time we stopped saying that the government alone can solve this crisis. Perhaps it is time for us to do our share and to acknowledge that for the most part, even if the government is to be blamed for this crisis, we too have a part in it. We should do something about it, starting with being honest to ourselves and stop playing deaf and blind to what has been happening around us. Then maybe, just maybe, the truth we would like to believe in will set all of us free.

An out-of-the-box health crisis

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE UP COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IS HOLDING its centennial celebration tomorrow with a whole-day affair to be capped by a program at 6 p.m. at the UP Theater in Diliman. All UPCM alumni, faculty (past and present), students and graduates of PGH are invited to attend what its organizers call a "once-in-a-lifetime" celebration.

As early as the year 1900, as a history of the college shows, Dean C. Worcester, then the secretary of the interior of the American colonial government, formulated a plan to establish a central government laboratory, a medical school and a hospital, "all in one integral group." Critics called it "Worcester's crazy dream," although decades later, such a set-up would become the model for modern medical centers.

The Philippine Medical School was established in response to the great need for doctors and other health personnel in the country at that time, a situation that seems to have only gotten worse in the century that followed.

Today, the UP College of Medicine counts 875 students in the medical program and 101 students in its various graduate degree programs. As of this year, the UPCM has graduated more than 8,000 physicians, and although there are no statistics available, it's safe to say a large proportion of those physicians ended up serving patients and communities abroad. Tomorrow's grand celebration, then, should also serve as an occasion for reflecting on the future—not just of the UPCM in the face of declining enrollment in local medical schools, but also of the medical profession as well as of the country's health situation.

* * *

DR. Jaime Galvez Tan, former secretary of health and professor of community medicine at the UPCM, in an oft-quoted study, cites the problems created by what he calls an "out-of-the-box" phenomenon in health human resources development "never before seen in any country." And this is the phenomenon of doctors becoming nurses, with an estimated 3,500 doctors already having left the country after undergoing nursing training since 2000.

An estimated 4,000, adds Tan, are currently enrolled in abbreviated nursing courses, while almost 2,500 doctors documented by the Professional Regulation Commission took the nursing boards from June 2004-2005.

"The effects of this phenomenon are double-edged," writes Tan. "For the government that benefits from the enormous amount of remittances that OFWs bring in, this type of migration is favorable. But for a country with people who die of illnesses without even seeing a doctor, for a country with hospitals in rural areas closing down due to unavailability of doctors and nurses, it is lamentable."

Even more lamentable is the fact that it will be those in most need of doctors who must bear the brunt of the shortage of medical personnel.

* * *

"THIS out-of-the-box phenomenon demands out-of-the-box solutions," states Tan. "Strategic actions are proposed to resolve the current crisis in health human resource development. These strategies do not aim to prevent nurses, doctors or doctors who have become nurses and other health professionals from leaving the country. The goal is to tame the mass exodus to the northern countries, achieve a rational programmed departure of our health professionals and secure a win-win situation for the Philippines and the importing countries."

Some of the proposed solutions involve bilateral arrangements with governments of "receiving" countries, emphasizing that "key government institutions responsible for the migration of health professionals (need to) speak in one voice and negotiate with the top importing countries." Another is to hammer out agreements between Philippine hospital and academic institutions and their counterparts abroad "to have a specified amount of US dollars given to the exporting health facility for every nurse, doctor or health professional that the US hospitals will acquire." Such funds, Tan suggests, could then go to a "health facility-based Health Human Resource Development Trust Fund which can be used for improvement of health professionals' training, nursing and medical scholarships, and improvement of working conditions in the health facility."

* * *

A CONTROVERSIAL proposal is the enactment of a "National Health Service Act" which would require that graduates of medical studies and specialist training match every year of training with one year of national health service, serving in under-served and poverty-stricken areas.

The Philippines is the only country in Southeast Asia without such a requirement, notes Tan. "A compulsory instead of voluntary service is called for since the situation is now more critical and entirely of a different nature from the past decades of health professional migration," adds Tan.

He also recommends the establishment of a Health Professionals Registry that would "locate and monitor health human resources availability for deployment or transfer."

Of course, other solutions also present themselves—from creating more job opportunities for health personnel to increasing compensation for doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

In conclusion, says Tan: "To avert the health crisis arising out of the health human resource development crisis, there is a need for solidarity with the importing countries of the north. However, such global and bilateral actions must be matched by national political will to institute the strategic solutions at the country level. The long-term and short-term solutions have been laid out. The situation is just waiting for political will and action."

'Signs of identity'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MADRID—A TWO-DAY SPANISH-PHILIPPINE "Tribune" opens in the Spanish capital this morning. Organized by Casa Asia, the forum brings together representatives from government, business, academe and civil society from both countries to discuss ways by which we can renew and perhaps reinvent the long historical ties between the Philippines and Spain. Invited to participate in a session on "Signs of Identity; culture and mutual perception," I prepared these thoughts for discussion:

Perhaps it is coincidence that the Tribune opened on Nov. 30, the Feast of San Andres, Patron of the Distinguished and Ever Loyal City of Manila. Nov. 30 is a national holiday in the Philippines, held in honor not only of the apostle but of his namesake, Andres Bonifacio, who ignited the Philippine Revolution against Spain in 1896. It is in memory of him and our shared history that we make the following remarks on the theme "señas de identitad" so that we may come to an understanding of how these signs are (mis)read in the reckoning of our shared history.

Whether we like it or not, modern Philippines is a part of Spain. In the same reciprocal way, Spain is a part of the Philippines, not in the political or economic sense, but rather in the more important and binding realm of culture. Our countries are linked, through a shared history, a shared culture, elements of a shared language, but how our relationship is perceived largely depends on the way our shared history developed, how it is transmitted, and more importantly how it is understood.

There are many visible and invisible signs of the Spanish legacy in the Philippines: in language, in the heavily Spanish rather than Roman Catholic faith, elements in our food, the visual arts, music, literature, etc. To dwell on all these, even briefly, will take more than the 20 minutes allotted for our presentation, so our discussion will be on our shared culture—points of convergence, and sometimes points of confusion.

We begin our exploration with a chocolate covered cookie available in Spain called "Filipinos." There is a similar, but larger, item available in the famous Manila *pasteleria* La Dulcinea where, for obvious reasons, it could not be called "Filipinos" and was christened "Negritos." In time, the *pasteleria* probably felt this was racist, so its name was changed to "Moritos" which is worse than racist as it is politically incorrect. How simple life would be if we stuck to the original name "Filipinos," but this is not possible in Manila where oversensitive souls will complain.

In colloquial Filipino, the word for going out for a walk is "*pasyal,*" obviously from the Spanish verb "*pasear.*" But what is more intriguing is that there is another term for "*pasyal*" and it is, pardon the expression, "*lamierda.*" Spelled as one word and used as a verb, Filipinos will invite you for a walk with "*Mag lamierda tayo*" instead of "*Vamos a pasear.*"

Filipinos know *lamierda* is a Spanish word, but are clueless as to its literal meaning, such that when made aware, they blush with shock and embarrassment. How did this vulgar Spanish term gain new meaning when it was transplanted to a new land and a new culture? That is a question we leave for the philologists and linguists.

Another example of the (mis)reading of Spanish in the Philippines concerns names, surnames and place names of Spanish origin. While these are tangible proof of the Spanish presence in the past, we draw your attention to one of Manila's senior and most well-known fashion designers Jose Moreno. He is more popularly known by his nickname "Pitoy" and his social and professional name "Pitoy Moreno" is a byword in Philippine fashion. Pitoy Moreno can be declared casually and without malice in Manila, but here in Madrid, we have to mind our language for it pertains to something else.

The amusing examples above illustrate how Spain and Spanish are remembered in the Philippines today, and how language is often the source for mixed signals. Our history is no different, and it is here that our countries, our people, our cultures can meet but unfortunately do not. It is in our history that we will find ourselves. History should liberate but sometimes it tends to imprison people in the past or in old paradigms.

No book or university course on Philippine history can cover all the events from 1565, when Miguel Lopez de Legazpi set foot on our shores and claimed the land for the Crown of Spain, till 1898 when, as a result of the Spanish-American War, the ancient walled city of Intramuros was surrendered to the United States of America, and with it fell the Spanish Philippines. Three centuries of history is a large terrain, so it is broken into periods, with attention focused on the last quarter of the 19th century where the Philippine Revolution becomes the fulcrum of modern Philippine history or the emergence of the Philippines as a nation. Because Philippine history is reckoned in this way, the result is that Spain is often painted as an enemy, as an oppressor, who did no good at all in the 333 years of shared history. Oversimplified Philippine history often obscures all the other influences in culture that remain so assimilated into Philippine life they are nearly invisible. *(More on Friday)*

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Cool leadership

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE EMCEE CHALLENGED US, "GUESS WHAT'S GOING on in her mind?" pointing to a photograph posted on the wall.

The occasion was a testimonial dinner and the honoree, the one with the enigmatic smile in the photograph, was Dr. Marita Reyes, "Mam Marits" to us younger (and pretending to be young) colleagues. The guessing game was a mild way of roasting Mam Marits, who is stepping down as UP Manila chancellor today.

I'll explain her famously (or infamously, depending on the recipient) mysterious gaze in a while but I wanted to say here that the testimonial was a different one, not the usual stiff affair you'd expect for a high-ranking official. Younger colleagues calling her Marits, the "guess what's on her mind" game, and the sometimes naughty testimonials from colleagues all revealed the type of relationships the chancellor had built over the years.

What lack of leaders?

We hear Filipinos complain all the time about a lack of leaders, with a growing phobia for women at the helm. I'd say we do have exceptional leaders like Mam Marits, more women in fact than men, and the problem is that they're so good they don't deserve to waste their time in politics.

What I do worry about is the lack of institutional mechanisms that allow for a passing of the kind of leadership skills people like Mam Marits have. Our institutions, whether in the private or government sector, continue to be plagued by patronage and authoritarian systems, with career advancement based on who you know and how aggressively you brown-nose (*sipsip*, as the much more euphemistic Tagalog term goes). It's not surprising so many professionals leave to work overseas—it's not so much the money than the assurance that merit, rather than connections, allows for advancement.

Mam Marits provides a ray of hope for the more idealistic, even if she represents a minority among the country's leaders.

I had to think really hard, during the testimonial, where I first met her, eventually realizing I had actually first heard of her, rather than seen her. Many years back, she and a group of other courageous UP College of Medicine faculty had questioned the admission of some students with well-placed connections. UP filed an administrative case against Marits and her companions. Through long legal processes, the controversial students were able to finish at UP but Mam Marits' group stood its ground, insisting that it was the principles that mattered. Eventually (meaning quite a few years later), UP dismissed the case.

Mam Marits and her group of rebels proved their point... and inspired many of us who were looking on. I was to hear of her again and again as she took up unfashionable causes in defense of the rights of fellow faculty, of students and of non-academic personnel.

(Wo)mentoring

Maybe appropriately, I finally met Mam Marits at a symposium organized by an NGO. She spoke on ethical issues around family planning and I remember being impressed because she was the first physician I'd heard speaking so eloquently about biomedical ethics.

Our paths would cross over the years, around programs related to gender and sexuality. I was to learn she had many causes, to which she applied her many talents—I do wish she were writing for the INQUIRER rather than another paper.

I was amazed, too, at how she was able to become dean of the College of Medicine, then faculty regent, and finally chancellor, all without compromising on her ideals. Her progress through UP's perilous bureaucratic labyrinths assured me (somewhat) that one could survive in UP without having to turn back on idealism.

About two years ago, after she became chancellor, I got to work with her as she built up a Social Medicine Unit within the College of Medicine. Working with two successive deans, Dr. Ramon Arcadio (now UP Manila chancellor) and Dr. Cecilia Tomas, she was able to mobilize her different networks for that Social Medicine Unit, involving not just doctors but also lawyers, anthropologists and economists.

At the testimonial, I kept thinking of a word to describe her kind of leadership and it finally came through, in the jargon of the young: cool. It's a style that dares to go against traditional authoritarian models, insisting instead on a kind of mentoring (or as my feminist friends would say, "womentoring") process.

Despite her being UP Manila's chancellor, she broke protocol, taking time to attend many meetings in Diliman for a bioethics program. She believed in being hands-on, but at meetings she'd pretty much leave people to work out the problems, only occasionally intervening to give her views.

This is a good time to get back to her mysterious gaze, one eyebrow raised. At the most appropriate moments, usually at the start of a meeting when everyone was fretting over some burning issue, she'd give the look that said: "What's the problem?" It always had a calming effect because that one look also said: "I don't see a problem here, so why worry? But if you think there is a problem, it probably isn't as serious as you think it is, and we'll solve it. And if it is really serious, then let's take it as another challenge."

One of us

Amazed? You should be, especially when I tell you that kind of flexible leadership came as well with no-nonsense firmness. At the testimonial dinner someone recalled a meeting where one staff member had arrived quite late. Mam Marits reacted in Filipino: "Staff members wait for their heads to arrive, not the other way around." I could imagine her delivering that one line, using her mysterious look.

During the testimonial dinner, someone pointed out that Mam Marits had chosen to step down as chancellor even before retirement. If she had stayed on, her retirement pay would have been based on the salary of a chancellor but no, Mam Marits wanted to retire as a professor, or more accurately, a fellow teacher—one of us.

That's leadership through solidarity and camaraderie. As far as I know, she never lectured about leadership; those of us who were fortunate to have worked with her learned through osmosis.

No wonder the testimonial was marked mainly by laughter and applause. When someone went behind the podium to get a plaque of appreciation for Mam Marits, we heard a cracking sound—the plaque had jumped off its wooden base. There was a moment of silence, then more laughter. Even the plaque had decided to be unruly, which was so appropriate to the honoree.

When I was asked to do an impromptu closing toast, I was at a momentary loss for words, but managed, speaking from the heart: "Mam Marits has been everyone to us, Nanay, Tita, Doktora, Mam, Professor. . . " and then let Dr. June Pagaduan Lopez take over, ". . . and heroine." That's part of cool leadership, too, being all things to all people.

That night, we left with our spirits high, heart light, knowing the testimonial dinner wasn't meant for goodbyes.

A subject that has no place in the academe

IT IS SAD TO RECOUNT HOW THE norms of ethics and morality have slowly declined in our society; and sadder still that the academe is where this downturn has become most prevalent, undermining the culture of academic excellence.

The University of the Philippines is the country's premiere state university, the bastion of academic excellence in the country. Yet what goes on in the academe betrays its very reputation.

More than fraternity rumbles and radical student activism, the university's greatest threat is perhaps the lack of moral mooring and ethical standards in the subjects it offers. This is worse as it directly undermines academic tradition by allowing vulgarity and frivolity to interfere with high-standard learning.

For instance, what could one learn from a subject on gender and sexuality (which is under the course title Social Science 3), where a certain sexy star is a guest lecturer or where sensitive issues on sex and human sexuality are discussed without the least consideration on human refinement, sensitivity and respect?

More than being a great insult to the *iskolars ng bayan*, who are the country's cream of the crop, this mirrors the urgency to reevaluate the curriculum of the university lest it loses grip on its responsibility in molding the country's future leaders.

The academe should clearly examine what it teaches its students and make sure it imparts quality education that feeds the intellect of the country's best minds, not matters that are boorish and trivial or that do not deserve a single corner in a respectable institution of higher learning.

—ANDREW P. AGUNOD JR.,
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and Biotechnology, College of Science,
University of the Philippines,
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SSS program meant to protect pensioners

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Sergio Montinola. (PDI, 10/15/05) He complained having sent six letters to the Social Security System president, to which he still has to receive a reply.

The statement is inaccurate. On Oct. 7, the SSS sent Montinola a letter informing him that his monthly pension will be suspended starting September this year due to noncompliance with the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP) program. We also faxed the letter to Montinola's residence on the same day.

On Oct. 20, our Member Relations Department (MRD) wrote another letter, which included a Pensioners Reply Form, elaborating on the reasons for the suspension of his monthly pension and advising him to accomplish the Pensioners Reply Form for submission to the nearest SSS office so as to facilitate the resumption of his pension.

On Oct. 25, MRD manager Eugenia de la Cruz also explained to him, over the phone, the rationale of the ACOP program. We faxed another copy of the Pensioner's Reply Form to Montinola's residence on the same date.

Montinola's pension will resume after he complies with the ACOP requirements. It normally takes two months before pensions are restored.

The ACOP program, which was started early last year, is part of reforms intended to ensure that pensioners get the right benefits and the SSS can recover the money erroneously sent to those who have died, remarried or recovered from their disabilities.

If a pensioner is unable to go to an SSS branch for checkup, he or she can request for a home visit by an SSS representative. Pensioners can also communicate with the SSS by responding to its letters, or by sending a certification that they are alive and eligible to receive pension. The certification may be issued by a regular SSS employee who has been working in the SSS for at least five years or a teller in the bank where they have an account. The SSS even accepts confirmation from the postman or barangay chair.

The SSS sent a notice via registered mail to Montinola on Dec. 1, 2004. We have no record that the mail was returned to the SSS. He was advised to report to the nearest SSS office for interview and checkup in February 2005, which was the month of his retirement.

Please note that all SSS branches have special lanes for pensioners undergoing ACOP. The SSS has also designated specific dates for them to report to the ACOP so that they would be spared from any inconvenience.

We are saddened by the refusal of Montinola to undergo interview and medical checkup since this would delay the resumption of his monthly pension. We hope he would see the benefits of the program, which is aimed at purging, from the SSS list of pensioners, those who have died, remarried or recovered from their disabilities.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Bird flu threat, how serious is it?

OSELTAMIVIR OR TAMIFLU IS NOT A VACcine, as referred to in the INQUIRER editorial "Sitting ducks." (PDI, 11/12/05) It is an antiviral drug. The same mistake was made in a news item on a possible Philippine-Hungarian cooperative undertaking for the production of the drug in the Philippines. (PDI, 11/13/05)

Perhaps, the media should also check the Internet for information (notably from political analyst William Engdahl) on suspected Pentagon involvement in what seems to be a media hype on the possibility of a bird flu pandemic breaking out.

The manufacturer obtained the patent for the production of Tamiflu from a California-based firm which reportedly enjoys a 10-percent royalty on all Tamiflu sales.

The public should know that substantial danger of a pandemic would be around the corner only if and when the bird flu virus mutates into a form that is easily transmissible from human to human.

This has not happened yet, though the virus has now been around for a good number of years, and there are literally billions of bird keepers all over Asia. As the head of the infectious diseases department at Canberra hospital emphasized: the most reasonable expectation is that the status quo will last for the foreseeable future. If the virus does mutate into that easily transmissible form, it could possibly be far less virulent. These things seem to be totally unpredictable.

We do not mean that governments should not be vigilant. It does mean, however, that the media should pay attention to all these caveats lest people get so alarmed unnecessarily.

—ARIE BRAND,
arjoy365@optusnet.com.au

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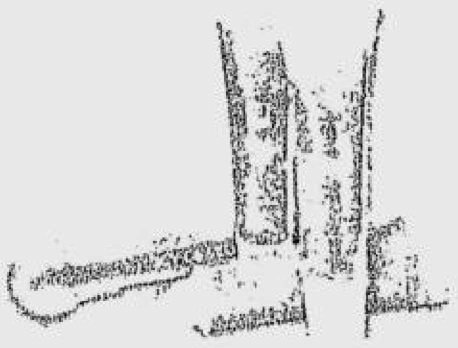

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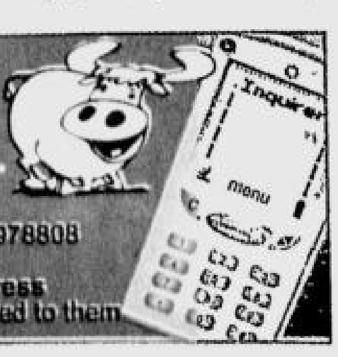

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Children learn to protect rare turtles

By Allan Macatuno
Morong, Bataan

CHILDREN FROM A SMALL village in the coastal town of Morong in Bataan are looking forward to the next 25 to 30 years when sea turtles or *pawikan* will return to the place where they are hatched to lay their eggs.

When they released some 30 baby Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) to the sea on Saturday, they knew that they saved these endangered marine animals from poachers and commercial traders.

At 10, Aljone Lleneraz knows very well the ecological importance of sea turtles. Asked what he would like to be someday, he would answer, "A protector of turtles."

The young generation of conservation advocates in Barangay Nagbalayong in Morong is gradually learning to protect the Olive Ridley species, the smallest in the world.

Their motivation comes from their parents, who used to be turtle egg collectors and poachers but are now volunteers for the Bantay Pawikan Inc., a group of local fishermen and farmers protecting and conserving endangered sea turtles.

"There are still nesting grounds where the helpless turtles suffer exploitation from starving communities. Well, at least, this picture in Nagbalayong is nearly just a thing of the past," said Wendell Acena, project officer of the community-based Pawikan Conservation Project in Bataan.

LIKE those from a small village in Morong, Bataan, children in Sarangani await the return of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles.
PDI PHOTO

Nagbalayong has the biggest nesting beach of Olive Ridley turtles.

The support of the residents for the conservation program has been growing since 1999 when Bantay Pawikan was established by an empowered community devoted to protecting the turtles.

Manolo Ibias, 53, used to hunt nesters and collect eggs for food 10 years ago. In some instances, he would sell sea turtle meat and eggs in the market.

"People here love to eat turtle meat although it is being sold at very high prices. It tastes better than beef," Ibias said. "The profit is good by just selling the eggs and the meat."

Conservation advocate

Ibias is now a turtle conservation advocate and chairs Bantay Pawikan in Nagbalayong. He is one of those "transformed" villagers who patrol the seashore to protect the threatened creatures.

Bantay Pawikan was formed after several meetings with a group of volunteers organized by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) in the province.

The PRRM persuaded the community to come together and organize, Acena said. "The interlocking problem of poverty and degradation of marine resources is the primary focus of the partnership," he said.

Ibias, together with other volunteers, would walk the beach—a distance of more than 10 km—every night to locate nesting grounds of the turtles and to collect their eggs for the hatchery.

"I have come to love this kind of work. I have this commitment to save this endangered species from various threats," he said.

Acena said organizing people from a poor town and motivating them to stop an illegal activity never came easy. Illegal fishing and poaching had been their primary sources of livelihood, he said.

But the reformed poachers are slowly charting an alternative course of development with the help of the community-based project, he said.

"At the start, it was conservation competing with basic needs of man. None of the best explanation and legal consequences could stop them from collecting turtle eggs for a meager income to buy food, send kids to school, and pay debts," Acena said.

The conservation project now leads to endless possibilities for Nagbalayong and the world's marine ecosystem.

It is being funded by the United Nations Development Program-Global Environment Facility under its Small Grants Program (UNDP-GEF-SGP), Acena said.

The provincial government has provided a small capital for the project's livelihood programs. Other groups, such as the Petron Foundation and the Ocean Heritage Foundation, have also expressed interest in giving assistance.

'Pawikan' festival

As part of efforts to save the threatened sea turtles, a *pawikan* festival was held on Saturday in Bataan, attracting people who are now aware of the importance of protecting the environment.

In the capital city of Balanga, a "Walk for a Cause" was staged to save the turtles, simultaneously with the release of Olive Ridleys in Morong. Since 1999, the Bantay Pawikan has released more than 30,000 hatchlings back to the sea.

"This symbolic celebration to protect marine turtles has turned out very well. It will bring sustainable development to Bataan in terms of conserving our natural environment," said Gov. Enrique Garcia during a program marking the festival.

Garcia said he saw a lot of potentials in promoting the festival and in uniting the people under the conservation program.

Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia said the provincial government had created several programs to protect the environment. "We have strengthened our Bantay Dagat (sea watch) volunteers to patrol the sea and protect our waters from illegal fishing," he said.

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Enrile, Defensor face suit over logging

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE AND ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Michael Defensor could face charges in court for their key role in the lifting of the 16-year-old moratorium on logging on Samar Island.

Former Eastern Samar Gov. Lutgardo Barbo, residents and non-government organizations are seriously considering taking legal action against the two in view of Defensor's order allowing Enrile's firm to log anew in Samar.

"I have discussed it [with them], and they said that we can try it (legal action)," Barbo, a lawyer, said after emerging from the Senate's initial inquiry into the possible displacement of indigenous peoples as an offshoot of Defensor's order.

"He's a senator; he's supposed to be a brilliant lawyer. Nobody should be exempted from the application of the law. I have nothing personal about this, and against Senator Enrile," he added.

When asked if charges could also be lodged against Defensor, he said: "I think so."

Enrile scoffed at Barbo's threat to sue him and maintained that his firm, San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), had a valid permit to log in a 95,770-ha area on the island dating back to 1967.

"If they believe in that, let them file whatever action they have," he told reporters.

"I was not really good looking in the time of Marcos. They should have filed the case against me already. During the time of Cory, they should have filed the case against me already. During the time of Ramos, even during this dispensation, even during the time of Estrada. I have been holding the concession already. I did not get it from the government. It was sold to me and I bought it."

Defensor issued on Aug. 16 an order allowing SJTC to harvest timber on the island and extended its timber license agreement (TLA) by another 16 years, the period it was suspended, upon Enrile's motion.

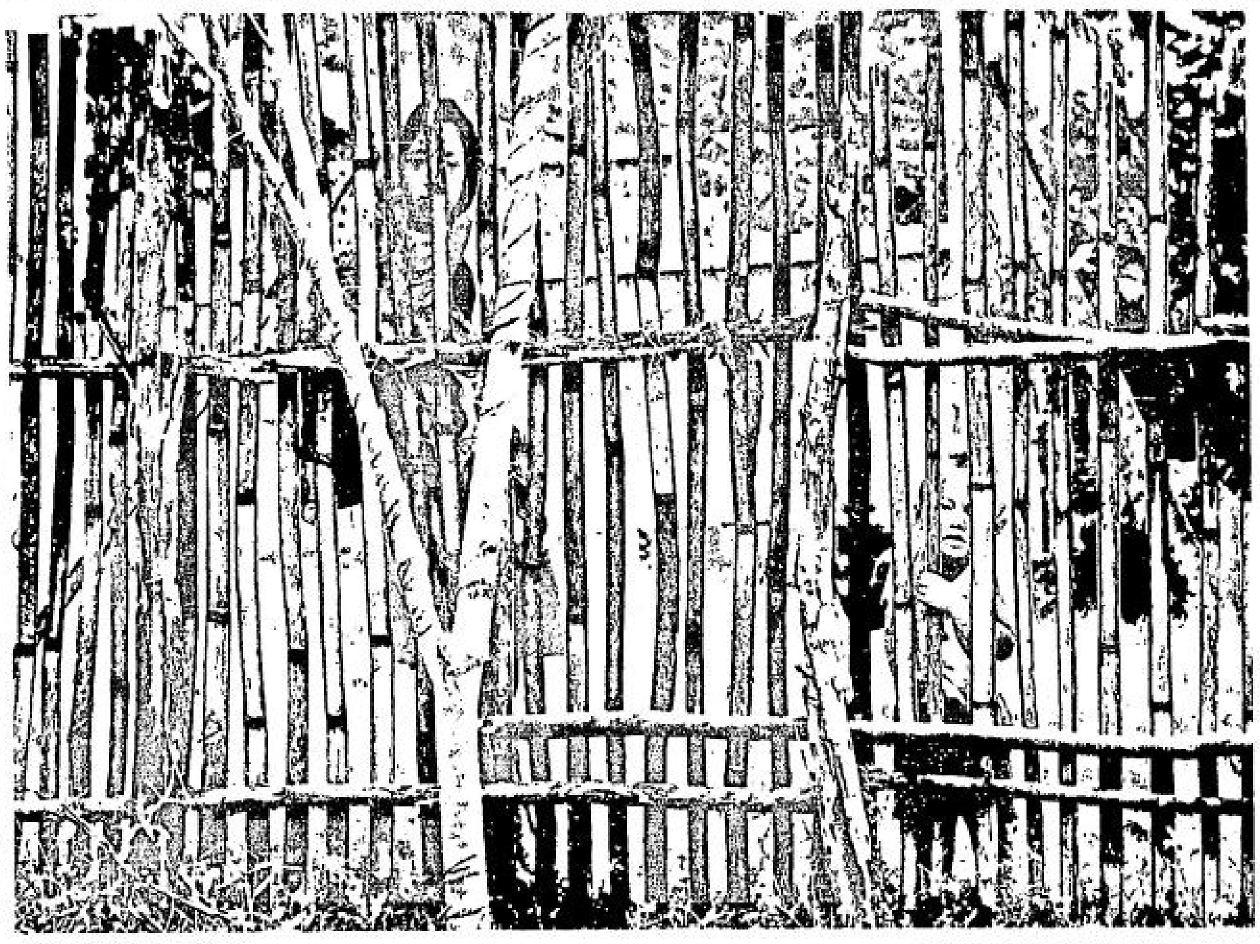
The firm's TLA covers an area that falls right at the heart of the 333,000-ha Samar Island Nature Park (SINP), home to the only healthy lowland forests on the island.

The SINP is a component of the $12.8-million Samar Island Biodiversity Project funded by the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Fund, US Agency for International Development, the government and NGOs.

At the hearing by the committee on cultural communities, chaired by Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Barbo said Enrile could be charged with violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for "intervening" with the DENR on his firm's behalf.

His intervention, he stressed, came in the form of "showing financial, pecuniary interest in a franchise, contract or transaction with the government during his term," an act classified as "corrupt practice."

The smoking gun, he said, was Enrile's July 11 letter to Defensor "intervening" to lift the moratorium on logging enforced in 1989 by then Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran.



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In some areas of the country, indigenous materials make good alternatives for concrete, especially in some schools in Mindanao like this one.

Samar logging foes reject dialogue with Enrile firm

By Blanche S. Rivera

CARETAKERS OF THE SAMAR ISland Nature Park yesterday rejected the proposal of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's lawyer to hold a dialogue with stakeholders on the island on the controversial logging concession given to Enrile's firm.

The Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation said community leaders in Samar, a globally important biodiversity site, were standing firm on their position against commercial logging within the protected area.

"Logging is an emotional issue to us ... Our position is to rescind the DENR order, and we will continue with that position. It's non-negotiable," SIBF president Fr. Cesar Aculan told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Religious leaders in Samar and Leyte, however, have opened their doors to Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, who will fly to Leyte on Friday to explain the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' position on Enrile's logging concession.

Defensor will meet with the four bishops of Samar and the three bishops of Leyte either at the chancery of the Archdiocese of Palo or at the house of Palo Archbishop Pedro Dean, Aculan said.

He said it was the DENR chief who asked for a meeting with the bishops after all Samar bishops issued pastoral letters calling on the people to help preserve the SINP and block the resumption of logging activities.

Defensor signed on Aug. 16 an order allowing San Jose Timber Corp. to cut trees in a 95,770-ha area within the SINP. He also extended the firm's timber license agreement by another 16 years.

Aculan said the bishops would present three requests to Defensor: To rescind the order, to expedite the passage of the original SINP bill without removing 25,000 ha for bauxite mining exploration, and to declare Samar as a zone of peace and development.

Group urges Moro rebs, gov't to rush peace pact

COTABATO CITY—A MORO WOmen's group in Mindanao has urged government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace negotiators to fast track the signing of a peace agreement.

The group also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo, as well as the Central Committee of the MILF, to come into an agreement for the sake of the Bangsamoro people and the peace-loving citizens of Mindanao.

In a statement, Baicon Macaraya, Mindanao Commission on Women (MCM) vice chair, said women and children caught in the armed conflict between the military and the MILF have suffered a lot, and that future generations should be spared from what they are experiencing today.

"Most of our member organizations have recommended the speedy resolution of the Mindanao conflict. They are asking both the government and MILF peace panels to reach an agreement that will make Mindanao a peaceful and progressive place to live in," said MCM chair Irene Santiago.

Santiago said that in times of armed confrontations, women and children are usually the most vulnerable victims.

Recently, members of the Ulama League of the Philippines said the ongoing military operations in Mindanao against Abu Sayyaf bandits, kidnappers and Moro National Liberation Front renegades have displaced at least 2,000 children in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The group says the number could increase, saying there are several unreported cases wherein the orphaned child would take it upon himself to get back at his family's murderers.

In a statement, Ulama League of the Philippines director Aleem Elias Macarandas said the orphaned children came from the provinces of Maguindanao, Sulu, Basilan and Zamboanga.

ARMM covers the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Marawi City.

Macarandas said a big number of children were displaced at the height of the 2000 all-out-war declaration of then President Joseph Estrada against the MILF.

"The prevailing sentiment among Muslims to keep quiet on children who have been orphaned is the main reason for the large number of unreported cases as they want to exact revenge on the people responsible for the death of their parents or family member," Macarandas said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Comfort women suspect Japan aid just a 'ploy'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE plan by the Japanese government to support humanitarian projects for the elderly in the Philippines was "another ploy to evade its legal responsibility" to comfort women or victims of military sexual slavery during World War II, former beauty queen-turned-activist Nelia Sancho said on Monday.

Sancho, national coordinator of the Lolas Kampanyeras Survivors Group, said the first strategy to skirt that was through the privately-funded Asian Women's Fund (AWF). Implemented with the justice and social welfare departments since 1997, the program was hailed by the Japanese Embassy last week as successful.

In a statement, the embassy said the AWF has helped Tokyo "extend atonement and support" to the aging victims. Every identified comfort woman got two million yen from the AWF and 1.2 million yen in medical and welfare support from the Japanese government, the embassy reported.

"How can they sincerely apologize when they have not individually identified all the victims that have come out in the Philippines?" Sancho asked.

The charity money, she noted, was accepted by some survivors but was rejected by many who instead demanded legal compensation and formal apology.

Many victims in Korea and Taiwan, where the comfort women system or "jugun ianfu" was also adopted, have rejected the charity money.

The groups of comfort women—the Lila Pilipina, Lolas Kampanyeras and Malaya Lolas—have documented more than 350 cases from 1992 to 2204. Not one was included in the reparation agreement, Sancho said.

Criticizing the plan, she asked: "Why doesn't the Japanese government help the Filipino comfort women directly by providing them legal compensation? Why direct the assistance to the other elderly Filipinos instead of the victims themselves?"

Japanese military sexual slavery has meant sexual violence, trauma, damaged lives and pysches, she said, citing the results of a study.

"Suppression of traumatic wartime victimization is related to long-term health problems such as ulcers, hypertension, and allergies," the study found out.

Filipino Lolas also continue to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Japan, Sancho said, acknowledged the problem, if not the war crime, after the discovery by Yoshiaki Yoshimi, a history professor at Chuo University in Tokyo, of documents in Japan's Defense Agency.

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DAVAO CITY—Over 300 stakeholders of the Philippine rubber industry wound up a two-day conference here Thursday urging the government to put more importance to the crop. The conference explored ways to develop the 100-year old industry, the potential of which has not been fully taken advantage of, according to Dr. Eugenio Alcala, Philippine representative to the International Rubber Research and Development Board. Alcala, also vice president of the University of Southern Mindanao in North Cotabato, said the problem lies in low investments in rubber research and development. Demand for rubber is expected to soar in the coming years.

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bicol roadshow

LEGAZPI CITY—About 100 Bicol businessmen are expected to join a road show on investment generation to be conducted by the Board of Investments and the Department of Trade and Industry on Dec. 6 at the Casablanca Hotel here. DTI Bicol director Jocelyn Blanco said the roadshow, which aims to promote and encourage investments in the region, will seek the enlistment of micro and small-scale enterprises in projects under the preferred areas of investments in the 2005 Investments Priorities Plan. The investment priority areas include agriculture and fishery, iron and steel mining, build-operate-transfer projects, book publishing, petroleum, jewelry, tourism, transport, environmental activities, infrastructure, motor vehicle parts and components, social services, drugs and medicines, housing components, medical equipment and devices and information and communications technology, shipbuilding.

Gina Rodriguez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 kids drown

BAGAC, Bataan—Two children drowned in a private resort here on Saturday. Police identified the fatalities as Raven Gonzales, 9, and her cousin John Paul Gonzales, 7. Both died before reaching the Bagac Medicare Hospital. Reports showed that the children were swimming in the pool owned by contractor Jerry Acuzar without anyone watching them. The victims' parents have not decided whether to file charges against the resort owner.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Santa in Dumaguete

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DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial government here has decided to play Sta. Claus this early to the more than 1,500 employees by announcing the release of their anniversary bonus next month. Daisy Vamenta, the provincial human resource officer, said some 1,542 will receive P3,000 each in anniversary bonuses in December. She said only those who have rendered at least a year of service among the about 1,700 employees will receive the bonus. Vamenta said the provincial government also has money for an extra Christmas cash gift if Malacañang orders to extend these to government employees.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Other 'jueteng' forms feared

PUERTO PRINCESA City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, head of the government's Anti-Jueteng Task Force yesterday expressed alarm over the use of "creative innovations" by *jueteng* operators to pursue their illegal numbers racket in various areas in Luzon.

Hagedorn, in a press statement, said some local government units like a barangay in Baguio even had the audacity to pass a barangay resolution authorizing the conduct of "bingo lottery" to cloak with legality a patently illegal numbers game operation.

The barangay council officials in Baguio have apparently resorted to "creatively" use a socially-acceptable game like bingo to provide a legal basis to what is clearly a front for the collection of bets for *jueteng* in the area, Hagedorn said.

However, Hagedorn said, such "creative innovations" by these misguided barangay officials in Baguio have been immediately stamped out by the Philippine National Police on orders issued by PNP Chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao.

Jueteng operators also ride on and use the EZ2 lottery being conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). *Jueteng* collectors use EZ2 as a front in receiving bets in some areas in Luzon, Hagedorn said.

"This is what I had warned of and feared most at the start of the anti-jueteng campaign," Hagedorn said.

"Even as we succeed in eradicating and paralyzing organized, syndicate-run *jueteng* ... the vacuum created ... must be filled up by government just as it must address the livelihood and basic needs of thousands of displaced *jueteng* employees," he said.

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Nene: It's a dead law, it's time to kill it

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT HAS BECOME A DEAD LAW and it's time to repeal it, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday after President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly pledged to Spain that she would not execute a Spanish-Filipino convicted of the rape and killing of two sisters.

Amid Pimentel's call for the abolition of the law on capital punishment, the distressed mother of the murdered Chiong sisters appealed to Ms Arroyo in a letter not to knuckle under foreign pressure and to uphold Philippine law.

"Being a mother yourself, I have no doubt that you can understand the grief and sorrow of a mother who has lost two exceptionally wonderful and God-fearing daughters," Thelma Chiong said in her letter.

The two victims were sisters Jacqueline, 23, and Marijoy, 20.

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of Mrs. Chiong's letter from the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), one of the groups in favor of the death penalty.

Philippine sovereignty

"I am deeply pained by these reports. I have practically dedicated my entire life to seeing to it that those who are guilty would face the death penalty for the crime they have committed," Chiong said in her letter.

"To undo the entire judicial process because of undue pressures exerted by other countries, which constitute an unwarranted encroachment on our sovereignty as a nation, would be highly prejudicial not only to our family, but more particularly to the entire justice system of this country," she said.

Chiong told the INQUIRER she was beginning to question the justice system in the country.

"We fought hard just to get justice for my daughters," she said.

6 years on death row

The Spanish newspaper El Pais, in a report posted on its website, said Ms Arroyo told Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono during his visit to Manila last week that the death penalty imposed on the Spanish-Filipino would not be carried out "while she is President."

Along with the Spanish-Filipino mestizo Francisco Juan (Paco) Larrañaga, five other people, including another son of a wealthy Cebu clan, were condemned to die by lethal injection.

Larrañaga, now 26, has been on death row for six years, along with the others.

Pimentel, author of a Senate bill seeking the abolition of capital punishment, said Ms Arroyo's position was a virtual admission that the death penalty was not an effective deterrent to crime.

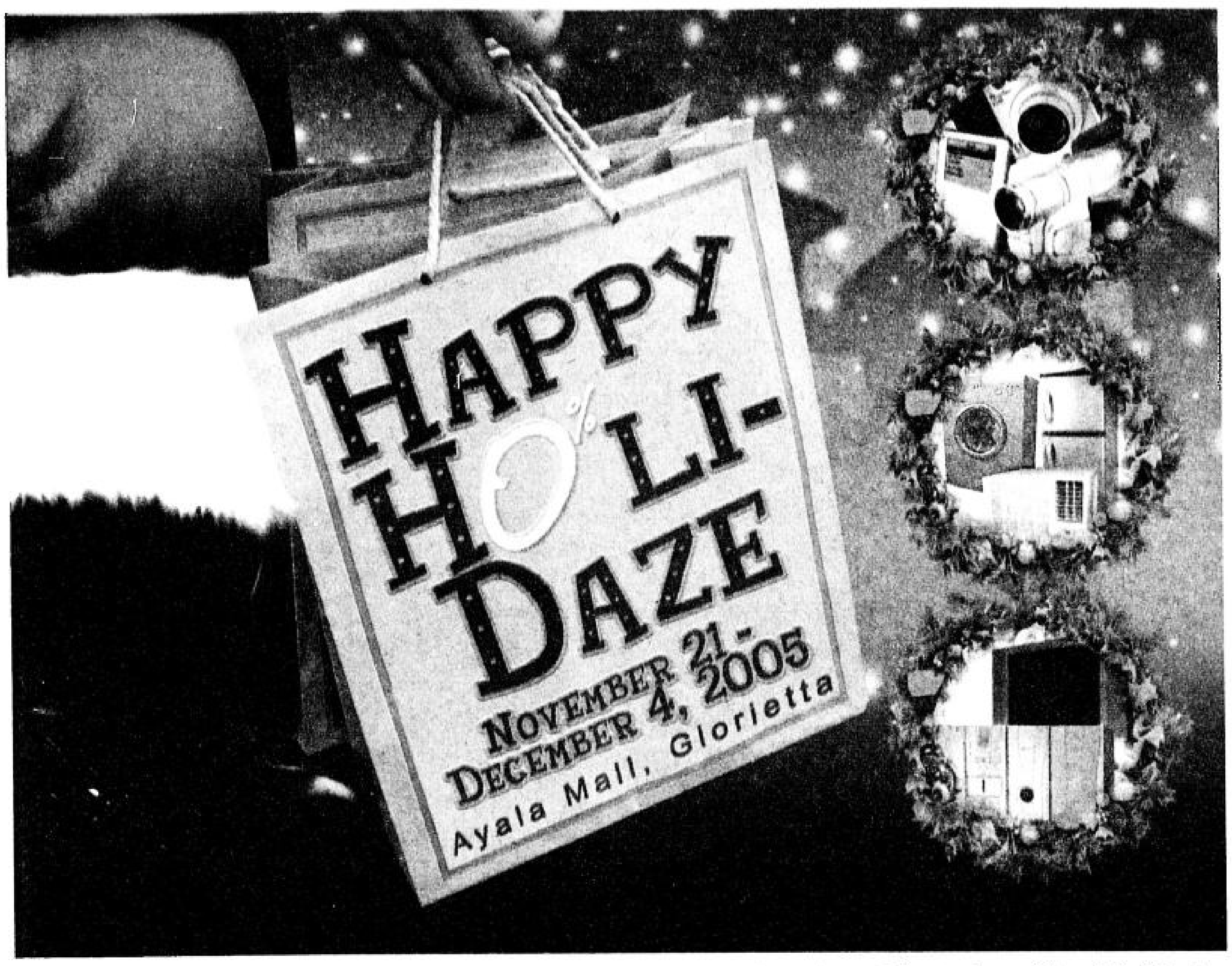
Idle death chamber

"If the government does not want to implement the death penalty law, having realized it is inherently wrong, then the only logical course of action is to have it repealed," he said.

Ms Arroyo's refusal to implement the death penalty also reflects badly on her because she is mandated to enforce the laws, Pimentel said.

"But by repealing the death penalty law, there will be no more criticisms that the President is reneging on her responsibility to implement the laws," he said.

"And we will see an end to an abnormal and ridiculous situation wherein the criminal offenders are slapped with the death sentence, death convicts continue to swell our prisons, but the lethal injection chamber remains idle."



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Court finds cop guilty of journalist's murder

From page A1

judge," said Gemma, who was wearing a black shirt printed with the words "Justice for Edgar Damalerio."

"I am satisfied because God heard my prayers. What I have been praying for is for Him to give justice to Edgar's death, and it came," she said.

"It was a victory for press freedom," said Jose Torres Jr., chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines' Commission for the Protection of Journalists.

But Torres pointed out that the resolution of the case was "only a small victory" when viewed against the continuing harassment and killing of journalists the past two years.

He also noted that the court had failed to unmask the mastermind of Damalerio's murder.

"We are happy for the Damalerio family, although we know that Gemma and her children would have wanted more," Torres said, adding:

"We can jail all the killers, but until those behind the killings are unmasked and punished for their crimes, press freedom in this country will continue to be threatened."

DOA

Damalerio was the managing editor of the Mindanao Scribe and a commentator of dxKP radio in Pagadian City when he was killed on May 13, 2002. He was shot in the chest and died on the way to a hospital. He was 32.

Wapille, the killer, was teary-eyed in court.

His lawyer, Honorato Hermosisima, said the defense panel would file a motion for reconsideration because the court had failed to appreciate the material evidence it offered.

Judge Codilla gave weight to the testimony of farmer Edgar Ongue, 33, who was with Damalerio when he was killed.

In his 12-page decision, Codilla said that while Ongue's testimony was not exactly corroborated, it was "unequivocal and done in a straight manner, with no trace of doubt or hesitation on his part..."

"There is no evidence to show that his testimony was tainted with malice and for any other reason except for the quest for truth and [for] the ends of justice [to] truly be served. His testimony in court remained steadfast despite the ... cross-examination by the defense. He did not for a moment waver," the judge said.

Codilla also said Ongue's statement would have been supported by teacher Edgar Amoro, had he not been murdered before he could be presented as a prosecution witness.

Ongue and Amoro were riding in the jeep that Damalerio was driving when the latter was gunned down by two men on a motorcycle on Fajares Street in Pagadian.

Amoro was shot dead in February; Ongue himself escaped attempts on his life. A third witness, Jury Ladica, was killed on Aug. 10, 2002.

Witness' accounts

In his testimony, Ongue said he could not identify the driver of the motorcycle. But he tagged Wapille as the gunman.

Ongue said Wapille was wearing a blue jacket with white piping and a dirty white scarf on his head.

He also said Wapille had been his neighbor in Barangay Pao, San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur, since the 1970s.

Codilla said in his decision that Gemma Damalerio's testimony "partly corroborated" Ongue's when she told the court that she saw Wapille in the afternoon of May 9, 2002, sitting on a motorcycle that was parked in front of the dxKP station.

Gemma also testified that before her husband was killed, she saw Wapille with another person riding a motorcycle that passed the family home.

The defense presented seven witnesses, two of whom were village officials who denied that Ongue was a resident of Barangay Pao.

To further refute Ongue's claim that he was a neighbor of Wapille's, the defense panel also presented San Pablo police chief Ernesto de Luna, who testified that Wapille was never assigned to their station

But Codilla said: "All told, the evidence of the defense is denial, trying to exculpate accused Wapille for the crime of murder through the testimony of the witnesses arrayed before the court. Said testimonies failed to convince the court of the innocence of the accused. Sheer number of witnesses is not enough to convince the court."

Escape

After being tagged by witnesses as Damalerio's killer, Wapille was placed under the "restricted supervision" of his fellow policemen.

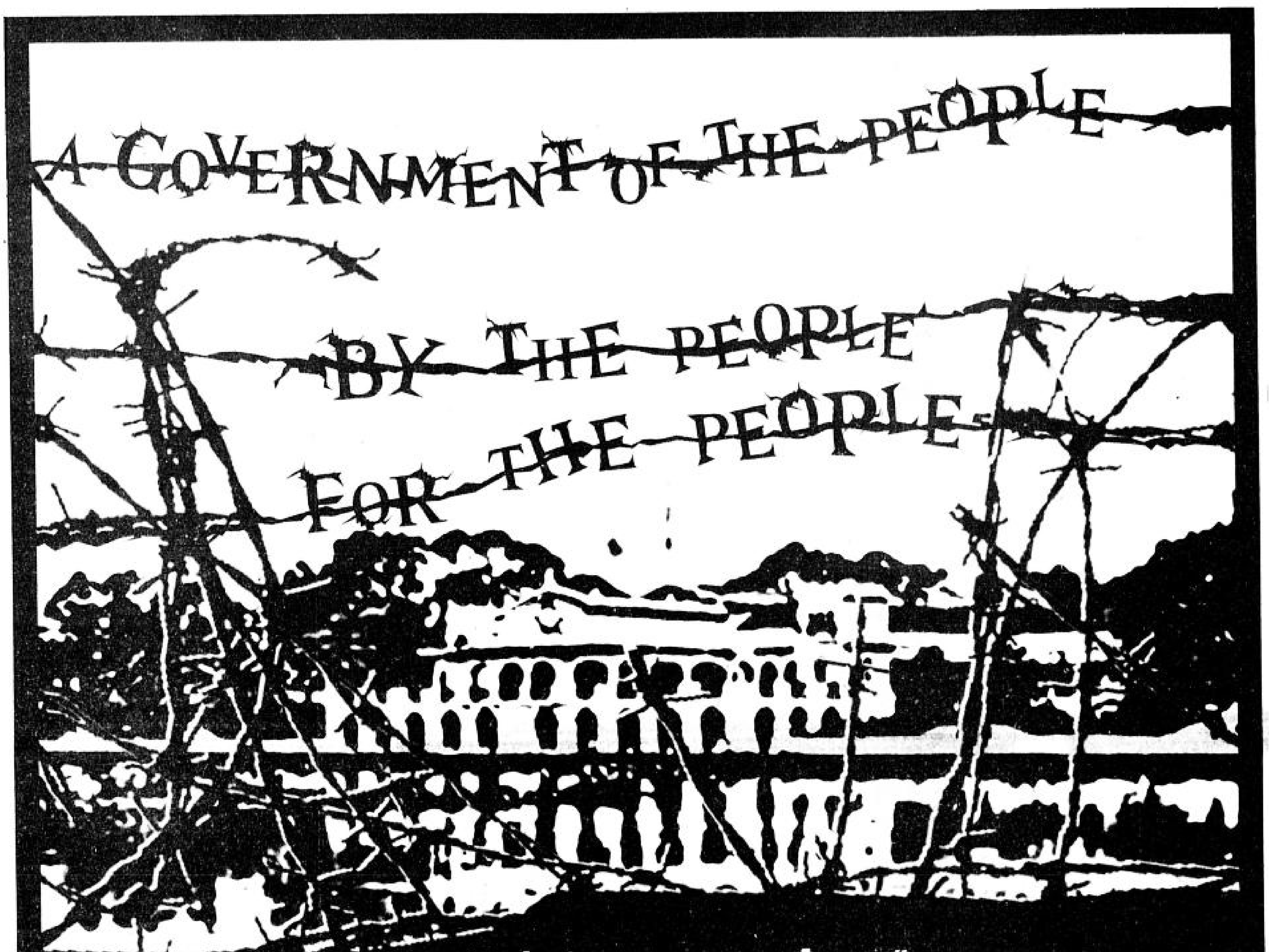
He was not formally ordered arrested until Jan. 30, 2003. But he had apparently been tipped off, because he managed to escape from the custody of Senior Supt. Pedrito Reyes before the warrant could be served.

Local and international media organizations expressed outrage over Wapille's escape.

The INQUIRER ran his photograph every day for several months. It was last published on Sept. 7, 2004, when it was reported that he would surrender.

Wapille actually surrendered on Sept. 12 and entered a plea of not guilty on Sept. 24 of that year.

The trial was transferred to Cebu City from Pagadian after the Supreme Court approved Gemma Damalerio's request on Feb. 14. *With reports from Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; PDI Research*



"Lahat naman nandaya."

"Lahat ng politiko pare-pareho."

"Baka mas masahol pa yung kapalit."

"Nakakapagod na. Hindi naman bumubuti ang buhay ko."

"Ipaubaya na lang natin sa Diyos."

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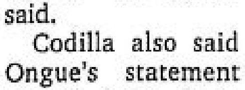

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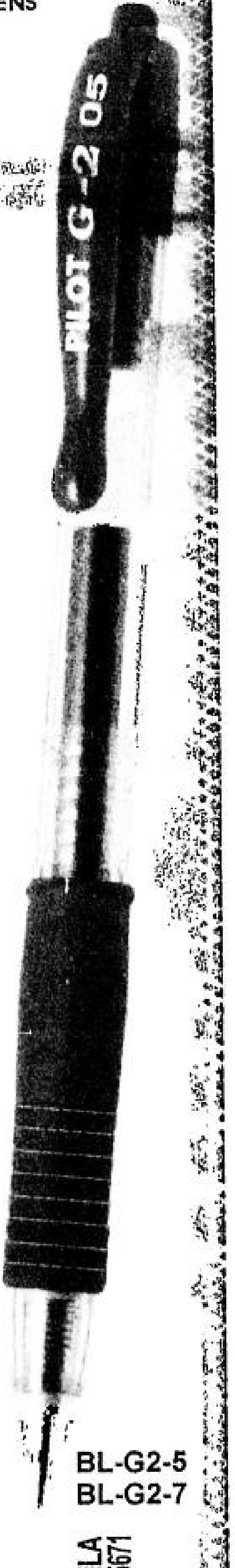

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RP bags 16 golds, pads medal lead

From page A1

Fencers Walbert Mendoza and Veena Tessa Nuestro also hit their targets in men's sabre and women's foil events, boosting the Filipinos' gold haul to 16 on Day 3 of the Games and 41 overall. They also had a three-day total of 17 silvers and 20 bronzes.

Vietnam was a distant second with a 17-17-24 tally, followed by Thailand at 13-19-26 and Malaysia 13-13-12.

In a pair of gripping finals, Mendoza bested Thai Wiradech Kothny, 15-14, while Nuestro nipped another Thai, Nunta Chantasuvannasin, 10-9, in sudden death at the San Juan Gym.

Other Filipino winners were bowler Maria Cecilia Yap, trackster Jimar Aying, shooter Juanito Angeles, wrestlers Jimmy Angana and Francis Villanueva, karateka Nelson Pacalso, swimmer Miguel Molina, mountain biker Marites Bibit, taekwondo jin Kirstie Elaine Alora and cue artists Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Ronnie Alcano.

Alcano, the 15-ball rotation individual champion, also won his second gold in tandem with Andam by routing the Thais, 5-0, for the 15-ball rotation double title at the Makati Coliseum.

The 28-year-old Yap, gold medalist in the trios event of the 2003 world championships, rolled a high 257 on her final game to beat Malaysia's Zandra Aziela for the gold in the women's singles with a six-game series of 1358 at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque.

Getting the better of two-time champion and compatriot Ernie Candelario, Aying clocked 47.03 seconds in the men's 400m run to give athletics its seventh gold. Candelario timed 47.06.

The Filipino tracksters are being hounded by the Thais and the Vietnamese, both of whom also have seven golds to show with two days of track and field action left.

Angana snatched the gold in the 60-66 kg class of the freestyle, followed by Villanueva in the 96-120 kg.

ZARDO Domenios of the Philippines twists in the air as he executes a dive during the 3-meter men's springboard competition last Sunday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Only 16, Alora claimed the featherweight gold at the expense of Laos' Phonkee Xayyavong in a Referee-Stopped-Contest bout late last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Over in Cebu City, Bitbit delivered by ruling the women's cross country event in 49 minutes and 54.91 seconds, more than 3 minutes clear of Indon Jirapan Cantharat at the Ramon Durano Sports Complex in Danao City.

Welcome present

The 35-year-old Pacalso, a Philippine National Police senior inspector, gave President Macapagal-Arroyo a welcome present by clinching the gold in the 65-kg individual kumite at the Mandaue Coliseum.

Pacalso gave Ms Arroyo a snappy salute during the awarding ceremony.

Angeles nipped compatriot Ariel Santos, 20.47 to 20.71, to capture the gold in the practical shotgun automatic event at the PSC-PNSA shooting range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The Filipinos' football resurgence was cut short after they were beaten by the Malaysians, 2-4, last night at the Panaad Sports Complex in Bacolod. The RP booters bowed out of the medal with a 1-2 record.

Action goes full blast today with 60 golds, including 13 in athletics, up for grabs.

Slated at the Rizal Memorial Stadium are the men's 20-km walk, women's hammer throw, men's pole vault, 200m run for men and women, 1500m men, 5000m for men and women, men's triple jump, 4x400m relay for men and women, men's discus throw and women's heptathlon.

The Philippines inched closer to the meet's inaugural baseball title with an 11-5 conquest of Indonesia at the Rizal Memorial diamond.

It was the Filipinos' second straight victory following a 38-0 whitewash of Malaysia in the competition opener on Monday.

Garci left RP disguised ...

From page A1

zalez said yesterday.

During a Senate budget hearing, Gonzalez revealed the findings of the committee he had formed to look into the widely publicized "escape" of Garcillano following disclosures of the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that nearly ousted the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo over allegations she stole last year's election.

He said the committee had recommended the filing of perjury charges against the pilot, Capt. Art Santos, who had testified that Garcillano was not on board his jet, owned by an Arroyo ally, on that purported maintenance flight to Singapore.

Gonzalez said that the panel composed of DOJ and Bureau of Immigration staff had reported that "there were three passengers—two pilots and one flight engineer and one of them is Garcillano."

Singapore report credible

Gonzalez said the findings of the DOJ-BI committee "lend credence to the report of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Garcillano was on board Subic Air Learjet C-1426 that flew to Singapore on 14 July 2005."

"Thus, the committee believes that one of the three crew members of the flight was former Commissioner Garcillano," said Gonzalez, quoting from the panel's report.

Garcillano, 68, disappeared from public view following revelations of wiretapped telephone conversations purportedly between him and Ms Arroyo. He resurfaced on Sunday, giving separate media interviews. He told the INQUIRER that he had been in Mindanao the whole time, reading and writing his memoirs, protected by friends from armed groups in the region.

Desmond Ng, deputy chief of mission of the Singapore Embassy in Manila, said he had no comment on Garcillano's claim that he did not leave the country, contrary to his government's report to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"We do not take a position on the domestic politics of another country," Ng told the INQUIRER.

As Gonzalez was explaining the details of how Garcillano surreptitiously fled the country, Sen. Lito Lapid complained that Gonzalez, senators and congressmen were making a big fuss over Garcillano's reported departure.

"This is just publicity. The senators and congressmen are looking for him but if he left, what's wrong with that?" he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who allowed Lapid to "interject" his questions during his own interpellation, said his colleague missed the point.

"The point is his (Garcillano's) passport was stamped with the markings 'departed' but there is no record in the Bureau of Immigration. How could that happen?" Lacson said, asking Gonzalez who were involved and who gave the order to allow Garcillano to leave without being recorded properly.

Gonzalez acknowledged that there were administrative lapses in the departure but did not put a finger on who engineered the escape.

Gonzalez earlier said he gave more credence to the Singapore government report. Evidence that Garcillano in fact left the country would put in question his credibility amid demands in the Senate and House that he testify to resolve questions surrounding the worst political crisis to engulf Ms Arroyo's 4-year-old presidency.

The President has denied manipulating last year's elections. In September, her dominant allies in the House squelched an opposition attempt, using the wiretaps, to impeach her on charges she rigged the 2004 balloting.

House to lift arrest warrant

In the House of Representatives yesterday, five committees jointly looking into the wiretaps decided after a three-hour meeting to summon Garcillano and former National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong to appear at the resumption of its hearings on Dec. 7.

The committees were also set to lift the arrest warrant against Garcillano should his lawyer, Eddie Tamondong, give assurances that Garcillano would show up, said North Cotabato Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos, the new lead chair of the investigation.

The arrest warrant was issued after Garcillano failed to appear before the panel earlier.

She said that if Garcillano did not show up, discussions on the committee report would continue and another panel could pursue the investigation.

Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. said that while the committee report was substantially completed, basic questions remained unanswered: "Where, how and who made these tapes? Were they entirely fabricated, genuine in whole and in part?"

"This can only be answered by the people who made it," he said, referring to Ong and Garcillano.

Ong announced on June 10 he had the "mother of all tapes." He has disappeared since then. His lawyer, Homobono Adaza, has said Ong would appear, possibly before the Senate, if it could guarantee Ong's security.

Garci conditions

Locsin said the conditions that Garcillano set for his appearance in his media interviews on Sunday—that the warrant be lifted, that he be treated decently and that the original "Hello Garci" tape be produced—were "actually not that bad."

"We're not going to handcuff a willing witness," he added. Locsin said that Garcillano's demand that he be treated decently was already covered by House rules.

"We are not supposed to browbeat witnesses," Locsin said. "His third condition—which is for somebody to produce an original tape—is beyond the power of anybody," he said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Armand N. Nocum, Tarra V. Quismundo, Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora; Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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JOSE "Jayjay" de los Santos, who is being linked to a car theft gang, faced reporters after his "voluntary submission" to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes (right) yesterday. Hearsay, De los Santos' lawyer said of the allegations against his client.

Alleged car thief shows up at DILG

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

A WEALTHY FAMILY'S SCION WHO WAS IMplicated in the series of car theft cases in Metro Manila submitted himself yesterday for investigation to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes who turned him over to the Philippine National Police "for processing."

Jose "Jayjay" de los Santos Jr. went to the Department of Interior and Local Government to clear his name of allegations that he heads a car theft ring linked to three carjacking suspects who were killed in a shootout in Ortigas earlier this month.

"(Suspected) carjackers out there should do the same," Reyes said in the hastily called news conference. De los Santos was accompanied by his father, Dr. Jose delos Santos and their lawyer Rey Francisco.

Voluntary submission, not surrender

"There's no existing case against him. This is just a voluntary submission; not a surrender," Francisco said, adding that all the allegations against his client were "hearsay."

Even the PNP Traffic Management Group admitted that they have nothing on the younger De los Santos.

Jayjay's name cropped up in the police's investigation after Patrick Tuzon, who was arrested by TMG agents in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City on Nov. 17, said that he was the one who had asked him to find a buyer for a Nissan Patrol, which later turned out to have been stolen at gunpoint from the driver of TV host Iya Villania.

"These were just Tuzon's claims. We have not established if this person really exists and whether it is the same person as the (purported) son of a hospital owner in Quezon City," said Supt. Eduardo Bayangos who heads the TMG's special operations group.

The De los Santos family reportedly control the De los Santos Medical Center in Quezon City.

The TMG's intelligence operatives have also found nothing incriminating on the younger De los Santos. Bayangos, however, said they will "continue to validate" any information about him.

Tests show woman died of meningo

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT WAS A CASE OF MENINGOcoccemia that was curbed before it could start an outbreak, doctors said yesterday.

The 35-year-old woman who died at the Pasay City General Hospital (PCGH) last Wednesday had indeed contracted the killer disease, Dr. Leto Mangonon, PCGH director, confirmed to the INQUIRER over the phone yesterday.

But the final laboratory findings on the victim's blood samples released yesterday showed no signs of the disease.

"The results are negative because she was given antibiotics that hampered the growth of bacteria," Mangonon explained.

He added that the victim was "clinically confirmed" to have contracted meningo because she showed symptoms of the disease.

Before the victim was admitted to the hospital on Nov. 22, she had been running a fever for days. She was also vomiting, had low blood pressure and developed violet rashes, the primary symptoms of meningo, Mangonon said earlier.

But he assured the public that the incident should not cause them to panic: "The [disease] was contained."

At the same time, he advised people not to take for granted common cough and colds or a protracted fever.

"They must see their doctors immediately," he said, adding that a regular intake of vitamins, healthy food and a good amount of rest would help them fight meningococcemia.

METROBRIEFS

Death for drug suspects

THREE drug peddlers were sentenced to death yesterday in absentia. Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Leoncio Janolo Jr. of Branch 264 meted out the death sentence to Chinese nationals Ronald Yao, Chua Lin Yen and Wen Jin Cai who disappeared after posting bail in 2003. "Their flight indicated their guilt (in) the crime committed," the judge said in his 18-page decision. The three were arrested in Pasig City on Nov. 6, 2001 in which an undercover policeman and a Filipino-Chinese informant posed as buyers. The Philippine National Police Regional Intelligence Special Operation Office said they seized 548 grams of shabu from the suspects. National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Group head Supt. Nelson Yabut said the three could still be operating in Metro Manila. "We are calling on the public to report to the police any information about the whereabouts of these three," he said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Mall probes bomb scare

THE STA. LUCIA East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal has started an internal investigation of the bomb scare that led to the mall's shutdown on Friday afternoon. "They are coordinating with us," Cainta Police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz told the INQUIRER. Police suspect that the men who left two boxes initially believed to contain bombs on the fourth floor of the mall could be people who have easy access to the building. The boxes were found at about 2 p.m. Friday near an amusement center, throwing shoppers into a panic. But after several tension-filled hours, police found out that the boxes just contained sand topped off with electric wires. The mall has tightened its security since the incident. "We advised the mall officials to improve their security to make sure this will not happen again," Rizal Provincial Police director Senior Supt. Freddie Panen also said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Oops! False alarm

TESTING LANG PALA!

IT WAS a classic case of a blooper. Pasay policemen immediately rushed to the main branch of the Philippine National Bank on Roxas Boulevard around noon yesterday after a call from a "concerned citizen," said SP03 Danny Unico, a desk officer of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). However, when the police arrived at the bank, its management, staff and security guards denied the report. P03 Conrado Lazaro said the bank's alarm system was being tested at that time and this might have misled the caller. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

It's Christmas in Manila

THE HOLIDAY season has officially started in the country's capital as city officials unveiled on Monday a giant Christmas tree. The tree, which is 30-feet-high and 15-feet-wide, stands in front of the Manila City Hall. City officials said the lighting of the giant Christmas tree, which has been a yearly tradition since 1998, aims to foster a festive spirit among residents and tourists alike. The tree is adorned with 350 brightly colored *parol* or star lanterns and about 1,000 25-watt candle and incandescent lights. Promenaders said the sight of the giant Christmas tree gives them reason to remain hopeful despite the difficult times. *Tina G. Santos*

Ear specialists meet on Dec. 2

THE THIRD annual convention of the Philippine Society of Audiology (PSAud) will be held on Dec. 2 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Dr. Alejandro P. Opulencia, PSAud president, said experts from Denmark, Switzerland, Germany and Australia have been invited to address the conference. Audiology, a relatively new field in the Philippines, is the study of hearing, especially hearing defects and their treatment. The PSAud says there has been a noticeable increase in the number of Filipinos suffering from hearing impairment with current estimates placing the number at about 6.2 million. One to three babies out of every 1,000 also suffer from some form of hearing loss. Local experts note that although hearing loss is generally a problem among the elderly, more and more cases have been reported among young adults and children. Hearing loss, especially among children, should be detected early because it can lead to speech disorder, learning disability and psychological disorders. Babies can be tested for possible hearing disorder as early as one to two days after birth. The test costs about P200.The PSAud is affiliated with the International Society of Audiology and is a member of the Hearing International.

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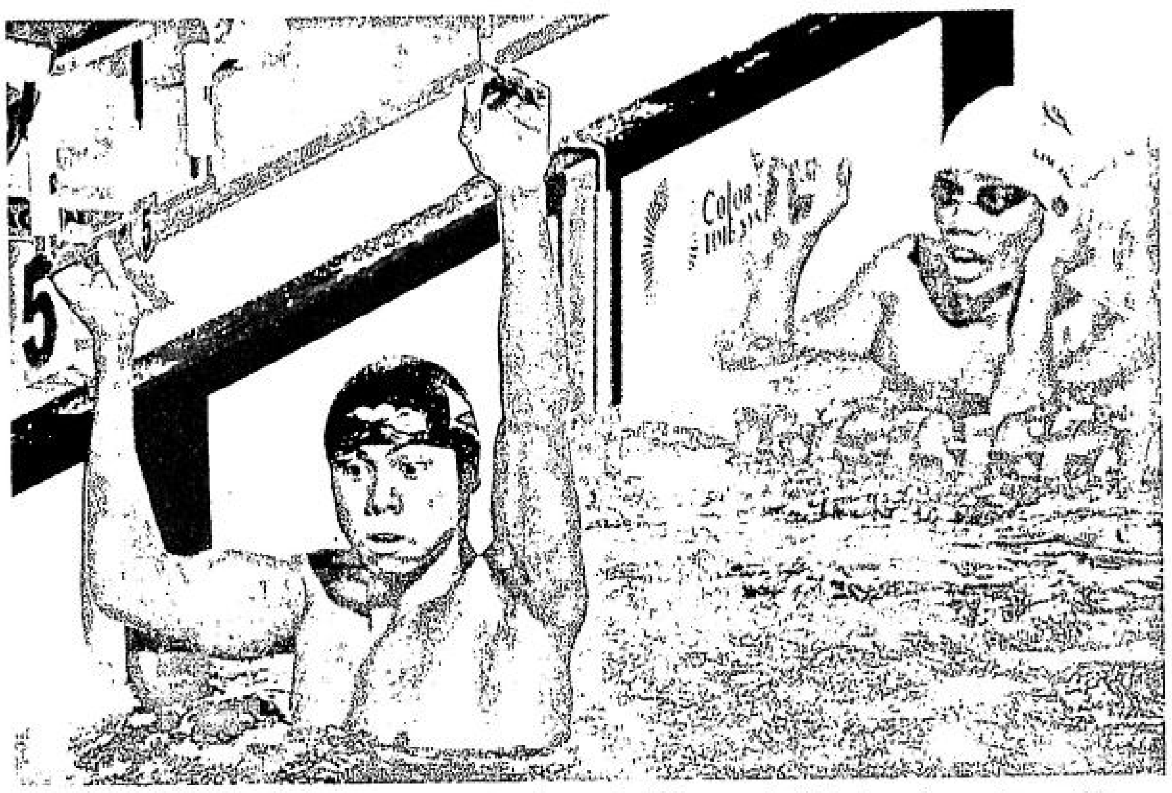
Molina prevents victory shutout

AQUATICS MEDAL TALLY
(As of 7:30 p.m., Nov. 29, 2005)

Country	G	S	B
Malaysia	5	3	3
Singapore	5	3	2
Philippines	5	1	3
Thailand	1	6	4
Vietnam	0	2	0
Indonesia	0	1	3
Cambodia	0	0	0
Myanmar	0	0	1
Laos	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
E. Timor	0	0	0


LONE PHILIPPINE GOLD: Miguel Molina rules the men's 400-meter individual medley, nosing out his Indonesian rival, at the Trace Aquatic Center, Los Baños, Laguna.
EDWIN BACASMAS

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—MIGUEL Molina prevented a victory shutout for the Filipino swimmers last night, snaring the men's 400-meter individual medley gold in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Trace Aquatics Center.

The 22-year-old Molina, who competes in the US NCAA under the banner of the University of California Berkeley, leaned on a strong freestyle leg to nose out Indonesia's Nasution Akbar in four minutes and 26.21 seconds.

Akbar placed second in 4:27.90 and Singapore's Lionel Lee Jian Yow wound up third with 4:32.58. RP's Ferdinand Frigillana was fifth in 4:55.21.

The RP women's relay team copped the bronze in the 4x200m free relay through Marichi Gandionco, Erica Totten, Chrizel Lagunday and Nicole Santiago, who timed 8:34.75.

Singapore underscored its supremacy in the sport by winning four golds, two by the irrepressible Joscelyn Yeo, who played possum in the heats this morning.

Yeo, who had a bout with chicken pox recently, upheld her reputation as the most successful swimmer in the meet, taking the women's 100m

MOLINA/ A26

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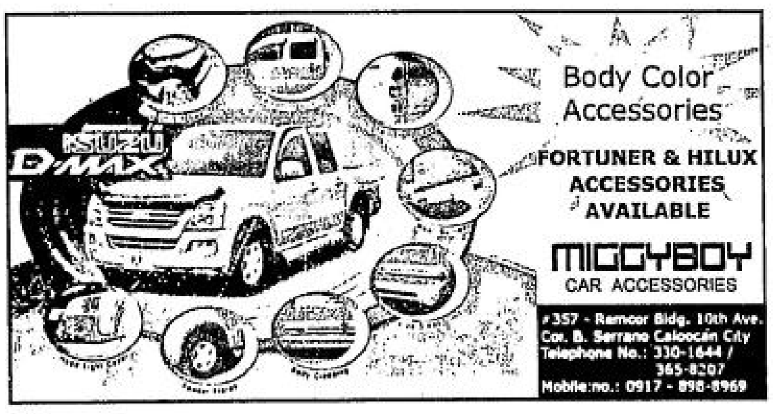
SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
Philippines	33	17	20	70
Vietnam	17	17	24	58
Thailand	13	19	26	58
Malaysia	13	13	12	38
Indonesia	9	12	16	37
Myanmar	4	7	5	16
Singapore	3	5	13	21
Brunei	0	2	2	4
Laos	0	0	3	3
Cambodia	0	0	0	0
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**92**	**92**	**121**	**305**

Medal tally (As of 7:00 p.m. November 29, 2005)
— from the Philsoc website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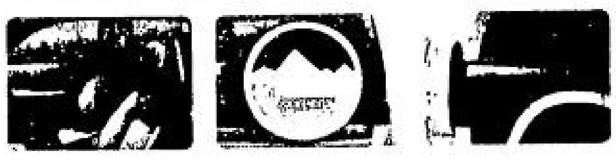

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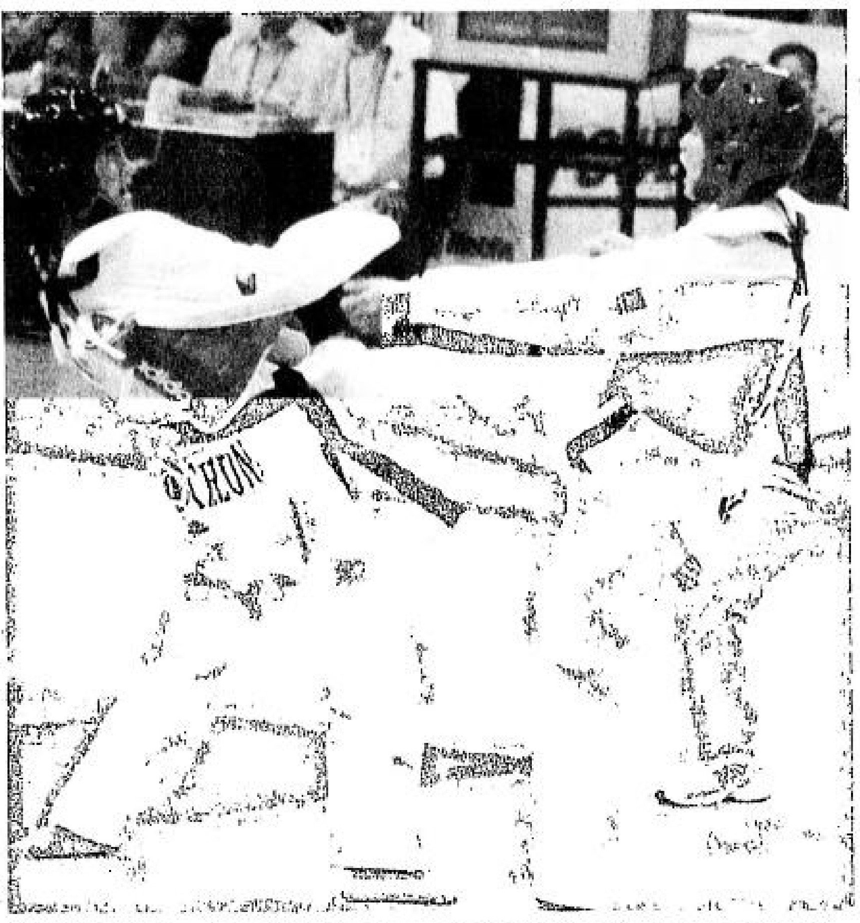
RP jins back to earth with 1 gold, 2 silvers



KRISTINE Elaine Alora (right) scores against Phonkeo Xayyavong of Laos in their gold-medal match in the women's featherweight class. ROGER MARGALLO

PASAY CITY—OKAY, ANOTHER GOLD MEDAL SWEEP WOULD have been an overkill.

But the four-gold opening-day act was just too tough to follow and the Filipino jins managed just one gold and two silver medals yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Kirstie Elaine Alora, at 16 the youngest Filipino jin in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, provided the day's lone spark for the RP squad by winning the women's featherweight title.

Alora opened up a 12-5 lead against Phonkeo Xayyavong of Laos in the finals before the match was stopped just seconds before the final buzzer and the Filipino was declared the winner by RSC (referee-stopped-contest).

College star Alexander Briones settled again for the men's welterweight silver medal after losing to Indon Basuki Nugroho, 3-2.

Ma. Criselda Roxas also bowed to a much superior Thai Chonnapas Premwaew in the women's welterweight finals, 8-3.

Thailand claimed two gold medals in the men's featherweight and women's welterweight. Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia took home one gold each.

Vietnam's Do Thi Bich Hanh beat Soe Soe Myar of Myanmar, 6-3, for the women's flyweight title. Malaysian Rusfredy Tokan Petrus prevailed in sudden death over Thai Dech Sutthikunkam to rule the men's flyweight division.

Jeffrey Figueroa failed to advance in the medal round of the men's flyweight while Manuel Rivero, Jr. lost to Taufik Krisna Nugraha of Indonesia in the men's featherweight.

Loraine Catalan triumphed over Yaowapa Boorapolchai of Thailand with a counter 45 in the sudden death match in the women's flyweight division elimination round, but lost to Soe Soe Myar, 5-2.

The RP jins have already duplicated their five-gold haul in Vietnam two years ago following earlier wins Donald Geisler, Tshomlee Go, Toni Rivero, and Esther Singson.

But coach Stephen Fernandez said he expects more gold when defending champions Dax Morfe and Veronica Domingo compete in the men's and women's middleweight divisions today.

The Philippines' biggest medal haul in the biennial meet came in 1991 with eight golds and eight silvers.

Earlier in the day, a couple of close matches sparked protests from the losers.

Karla Tricia V. Magno

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Alcano-Andam blast 'em

THE PAIR OF RONNIE ALCANO AND LEONARDO ANDAM delivered another gold medal for the Philippines in the billiards and snooker competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games late Tuesday at the Makati Coliseum.

Andam, a four-gold winner in the 1991 Manila SEA Games edition and Alcano, a former AZ Billiards Rookie of the Year, overwhelmed the duo of Tepwin Arrunath and Amnuaypom Chotipong, 5-0, in the finals of the 15-ball double rotation to raise RP's haul to four golds.

"Again we thank God for another victory," said Alcano, the best rotation player in the region who also won the gold medal in the 15-ball single rotation last Sunday.

Alcano and Andam beat the duo of Singaporean Tan Tiong Boon and Chang Keng Kwang, 5-4, in the quarterfinals, then whipped the Indonesian pair of Muhamad Junarto and Muhamad Zulfikri, 5-0, in a lopsided semifinal matchup.

Thailand, on the other hand, disposed of Malaysia, bannered by Ooi Fook Yuen and Filipino Ibrahim Bin Amir, 5-4, in the other semifinal duel.

"Four out of five, it's not bad," said Ernesto Fajardo, Billiards and Snooker Confgress of the Philippines president. The Philippines' lone loss came in the men's snooker doubles when Alex Pagulayan and Joven Alba bowed to Alex Puan Yi Wei and Keith E Boon Aun of Singapore,

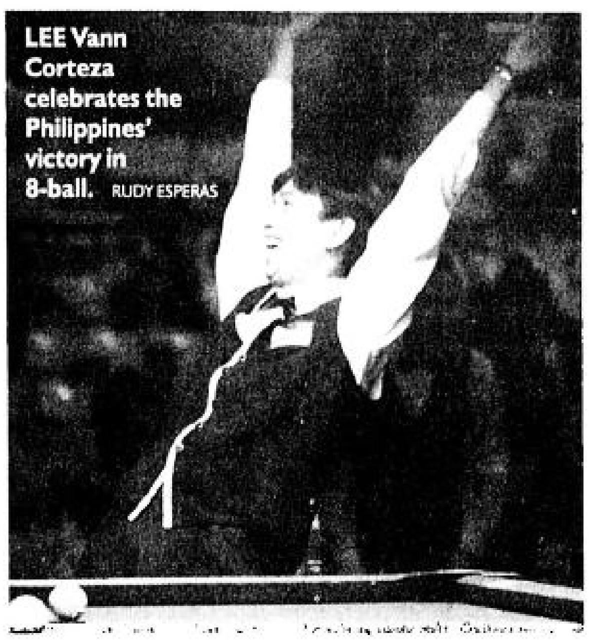
3-1.

The Nationals then bowed to Malaysia, 1-3, in the battle for the bronze medal.

The RP snooker doubles Team opened their campaign with a bang by blasting Vietnam, 3-0.

Singapore and Thailand will dispute the gold medal.

Marlon Bernardino



LEE Vann Corteza celebrates the Philippines' victory in 8-ball. RUDY ESPERAS

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BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

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From Lacson Avenue, the visitor decides to walk to the wet market on Burgos, and thereby discovers the shortest route to instant joy.

There are incredible headlines screaming of victory on the sidewalk newspaper stalls.

As though in a dream, the reports are of monumental triumphs, instead of assorted failures and mounting miseries.

Suddenly, gold medals, over 20 won by Filipino athletes, far outnumber the deaths caused by lawlessness and recklessness in various areas of the country.

* * *

This is exactly like waking up in a different country.

There's this towering feeling of rising to a new day among a brave, industrious people whose leaders don't know how to sin.

There had been predictions of the Philippines figuring strongly in the current Southeast Asian Games, but the early surge to the overall leadership was unheard of.

Call it whatever name you please.

This is the SEA Games feeling, a healing of all past aches.

It may not linger for long, but savor it while it's still there.

* * *

It's no plain coincidence that the SEA Games fever has caught up with this reporter in this capital of gentle, fun-loving people.

Bacolod happens to host at least three major disciplines—football, boxing, volleyball—a distinction no other city outside of Manila can claim.

Negrenses are indeed enjoying a bonanza of great games, but this is an apt reward for a people that had given the Philippines some of our national sporting greats.

Pancho Villa, born Francisco Guilledo, was a Negrense who crushed the legendary Jimmy Wilde in 1923 to annex the world flyweight boxing crown. He was the first Asian to capture a world boxing title.

Other than noblemen, Negros has a host of other sporting greats.

Onyok Velasco, who got cheated of the gold medal in the Atlanta Olympics, was born and raised in these parts.

* * *

And where else in the country should the SEA Games football event be contested?

Nowhere else but here, a rare province that has remained the hotbed of soccer, while the whole country continued to drown uselessly in basketball fever.

So what if Bacolod has also become noted as the producer of the finest fighting cocks in the land?

It's no plain coincidence (again) that the RP campaign to wrest the Southeast Asian boxing supremacy from Thailand is being fueled by Negrense blood.

The country's finest simonpures happen to have emerged from here, so confirms Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez.

Roel Velasco, brother of Olympic silver medalist Onyok, is himself a winner of the bronze medal in the Barcelona Olympics who now handles the powerhouse RP women's team in the current Games.

In short, this is no time to complain about Bacolod being made to host at least three main disciplines while not a single event has been allowed in Mindanao.

Negros has earned what it is currently enjoying as a main venue of RP sports resurgence.

The best thing to do is investigate if it's indeed the unmatched chicken *inasal*, the unforgettable fish *tinola*, or the quality of their native sugar that fuel the winning blood of Negrense sports greats.

Molina prevents . . .

From page A25

freestyle and the 200m individual medley—her 35th and 36th SEAG gold medal.

She swam merely to qualify in the heats.

Singapore's Chinese import Tao Li won a third gold in the 200m backstroke before Bryan Tay Zhirong, Gary Tan Lee Yu, Mark Chay Jung Jun and Marcus Cheah Mingzhe topped the men's 4x200 relay.

The Singapore quartet clocked 7:35.85 to break the SEAG record of 7:38.82 set by another Singapore team in Kuala Lumpur in 2001. Thailand was second in 7:42.22 and Indonesia third in 7:43.56.

Thailand won the women's 4x200 relay also in record fashion, finishing in 8:24.93 that erased the 1999 mark of 8:25.51 posted by another Thai squad. Singapore finished second with a time of 8:34.75.

Fil-American Erica Totten failed miserably against Yeo in the 200 IM where she placed fourth (2:25.60) behind Thailand's Nimitta Thaveesupsoonthorn (2:24.28) and Singapore's Nicolette Teo Wei Min, who placed third and second, respectively.

Malaysia got into the winning column through Alex Lim Keng Liat in the men's 200m backstroke. He won over Singaporeans Gary Tan Lee Yu (2:07.26) and Marcus Cheah Mingzhe (2:08.50) who bagged the silver and bronze.

Lizza Danila, who hails from nearby San Pablo City, failed to get inspiration from her relatives, friends and classmates cheering from the stands, placing fifth (2:23.65) in her favorite 200m backstroke won by Tao Li, who timed 2:17.55.

Defending champion Vorathamrong Chonlathorn could only finish second in 2:18.66 and Indonesia's Malinda Yuliana came in third in 2:23.17.

Luica Dacanay placed seventh in the event in 2:26.05.

The Philippines wound up fourth and last in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay, an event another RP team won in Vietnam. *With a report from Don Eric Sta. Rosa*

Tañamor shames Thai foe

By Recah Trinidad

BACOLOD CITY—OLYMPIAN HARRY TAÑAMOR tamed and shamed Suban Pannon of Thailand to virtually assure himself of the light flyweight gold medal as the Philippines stayed on focus for its quest of the boxing championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

The final count, 26-14, in favor of the rangy, sharp-punching Pinoy ring craftsman could have been wider had not the referee allowed the rugged Thai to repeatedly employ dirty tactics in a desperate bid to prevent a mismatch.

After his victory over Suban, Tañamor, lone RP gold medalist in the 2003 Vietnam Games, takes on Rionando Butar-Butar of Indonesia, who won a close bout against an unskilled Laotioan only after he was awarded two points for getting hit while still down on the floor.

With no worthy opposition in line after his mastery of the Thai, Tañamor is expected to march trouble-free to a second straight SEA Games gold in the boxing finals on Dec. 3.

Local boy Joan Tipon hardly worked out a sweat in eking out an RSC-O win over Kyaw Kyaw Lant of Myanmar, 25-5, in the third round and will next meet Chatasone of Laos for his next assignment in the bantamweight class.

Tipon, declared the best fighter in this year's Asian Boxing Championship in Vietnam, is headed for a clash against Thai Tangtong Klongjan as the expected RP-Thai rivalry for the boxing title continued to build up.

Three-time Olympian Romeo Brin outboxed Nilondon Tano Yahn of Laos, 29-9, in the light welterweight division to make it a perfect day for the Philippines in the boxing field here.

National Open champion Jouvelet Chilem of Baguio started the RP bid on a bright note in Day 2 of action with a 26-14 stoppage (RSC-Outscored) of Tassamalee Thongjan in the third round.

It was the third straight win for the RP women's team, a sensational follow-up to the back-to-back victories of pinweight Alice Kate Aparri and flyweight Annie Albania on opening day.

The Thai men's team, which scooped up a total of eight gold medals against only one by the Philippines in Vietnam two years ago, suffered its first and only defeat with the exit of Suban.

The president of the Thai boxing association has announced they are targeting at least five gold medals.

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GOLDEN MOMENTS

No surrender for this brave cop

POLICE SENIOR INSPECTOR NELson Pacalso knew his commander-in-chief was watching. Pacalso clawed out from deep inside the jaws of defeat to bag the country's third gold medal in karate. Pacalso, 35, trailed 1-4 with 58 ticks left before beating Vietnam's Nguyen Bao Tuan, 6-5, in the finals of the 65 kg individual kumite.

She's just too quick

SHE WAS TOO QUICK AND DEtermined that she had her mountain-bike cross-country rivals eating her dust. Maritess Bitbit crossed the finish more than three minutes ahead of the Indonesian runner-up to post the most lopsided win thus far in the sport, which is being held in Danao City.

Same weapon

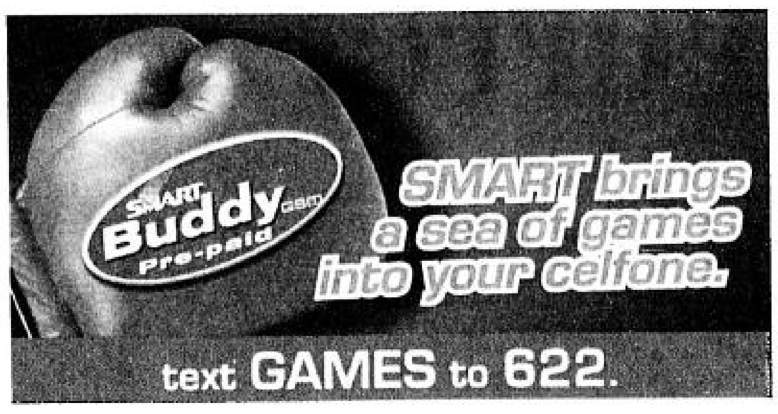
AIDA YANG AND VICKY TING ruled the Taolu-Duilian (dual event with weapons) at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports and Cultural Center in Manila after an amazing display of synchronized swordplay. In raising the RP gold medal output in wushu to four, Yang and Ting were the only pair to use the same weapon—the sword—compared to their rivals who, used a sword and a spear.

First time

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES FIRST-timer Juanito Angeles emerged the surprise winner in the practical shotgun automatic event at the PSC-PNSA shooting range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Shooting an impressive 20.47, he bagged the gold in his first stint in the SEA Games. He nipped compatriot Ariel Santos, who had 20.71, for a 1-2 Philippine finish.

Drama-filled win

WALBERT MENDOZA SURVIVED an emotion-ridden men's sabre final against Sydney Olympics bronze medalist Wiradech Kothny, 15-14, at the San Juan gymnasium. "They want to beat us so bad because we are the defending champions," said RP fencing head coach Bobby Garcia.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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

AQUATICS-DIVING (*Trace College, Laguna*)
9:30 a.m.—1M Springboard Individual (women's finals)
2 p.m.—10M Platform Individual (men's finals)

AQUATICS-SWIMMING (*Trace College, Laguna*)
8 a.m.—4x100M Freestyle Relay (women's heats); 100M Freestyle (men's heats); 100M Breaststroke (men's and women's heats); 400M Freestyle (women's heats); 200M Individual Medley (men's heats)
6 p.m.—100M Breaststroke (men's and women's finals); 400M Freestyle (women's finals); 200M Individual Medley (men's finals); 4x100M Freestyle Relay (women's finals); 100M Freestyle (men's finals)

ARCHERY (*Subic Bay Freeport Football Field*)
9 a.m.—Recurve (women's short distances qualifier); Compound (men's short distances qualifier)
2 p.m.—Compound (women's short distances qualifier); Recurve (men's shorts distances qualifier)

ATHLETICS (*Rizal Memorial Stadium*)
7 a.m.—20KM Walk (men's finals) (*Macapagal Blvd.*)
2:30 p.m.—Hammer Throw (women's finals); Long Jump (heptathlon); Pole Vault (men's finals)
3 p.m.—200M Dash (men's finals)
3:15 p.m.—200M Dash (women's finals)
3:30 p.m.—1500M (men's finals)
3:45 p.m.—5000M (women's finals)
4 p.m.—Javelin Throw (heptathlon); Triple Jump (men's finals)
4:15 p.m.—4x400M Relay (men's finals)
4:30 p.m.—4x400M Relay (women's finals)
4:45 p.m.—5000M (men's finals)
5:10 p.m.—Discus Throw (men's finals)
5:20 p.m.—800M Run (heptathlon)

BASEBALL (*Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Philippines vs Myanmar

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—8-Ball Pool (women's pre-q finals)
1 p.m.—English Billiards Doubles (men's bronze match); 8-Ball Pool (women's q'finals)
4 p.m.—English Billiards Doubles (men's finals); 8-Ball Pool (women's semis)
7 p.m.—8-Ball Pool (women's finals and bronze match); One Cushion Carom (men's q'finals)

BOWLING-TENPIN (*Pearl Bowling Center, Parañaque*)
9 a.m.—Men's doubles (6 games/finals)
1:30 p.m.—Women's doubles (6 games/finals)

BOXING (*University of St. La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod*)
5 p.m.—Men's and women's elims

CHESS (*Tagaytay Int'l Convention Center*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's standard (round 1)
4:30 p.m.—Men's and women's standard (round 2)

FENCING (*San Juan Gymnasium*)
10 a.m.—Team Epee and Sabre (women's elims/direct elims)
1:15 p.m.—Team Epee (women's finals)
2:15 p.m.—Team Sabre (women's finals)
3:45 p.m.—Team Epee (men's elims/direct elims)
5:45 p.m.—Team Epee (men's finals)

GYMNASTICS (*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex*)
10:30 a.m.—Artistic Gymnastics (women's individual all-around finals)
3:20 p.m.—Artistic Gymnastics (men's individual all-around finals)

PENCAK SILAT (*Cebu Coliseum*)
9 a.m.—Tanding (men's classes A-I elims)
2 p.m.—Tanding (women's classes A-D elims)
7:30 p.m.—Tunggal (woman's singles elims); Regu (men's elims)

ROWING (*La Mesa Dam*)
TBA—Men's and women's group A finals

SEPAK TAKRAW (*University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu*)
11 a.m.—Philippines vs Singapore (men's regu cross over)
4 p.m.—Philippines vs Malaysia (men's regu elims)

SHOOTING (*PSC-PNSA Shooting Range, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig*)
9 a.m.—50m Rifle Prone 60 Shots (men's finals); 10m Air Rifle 40 Shots (women's finals)

SOFTBALL (*Rosario Sports Arena, Pasig City*)
9:30 a.m.—Philippines vs. Thailand (women's elims)
3:30 p.m.—Indonesia vs. Philippines (men's elims)

SQUASH (*Makati Sports Club*)
6 p.m.—Men's and women's singles semis

TABLE TENNIS (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's team semis
7 p.m.—Men's and women's team finals

TAEKWONDO (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—John Paul Lizardo (PHI) vs Le Huynh Chau (VIE) (men's q'finals)
2:30 p.m.—Kathleen Eunice Alora (PHI) vs Fransisca Valentina (INA) (women's q'finals)
2:40 p.m.—Maung Maung Oo (MYA) vs Dax Alberto Morfe (PHI) (men's q'finals)
3:10 p.m.—Iin Retno Famulat (INA) vs Veronica Domingo (PHI) (women's semis)
3:20 p.m.—Michael Alejandrino (PHI) vs Teguh Waskito (INA) (men's semis)
3:30 p.m.—Sally Solis (PHI) vs. Rapatkorn Prasopsuk (THA) (women's semis)
4:30 p.m.—Men's finals
4:45 p.m.—Women's finals

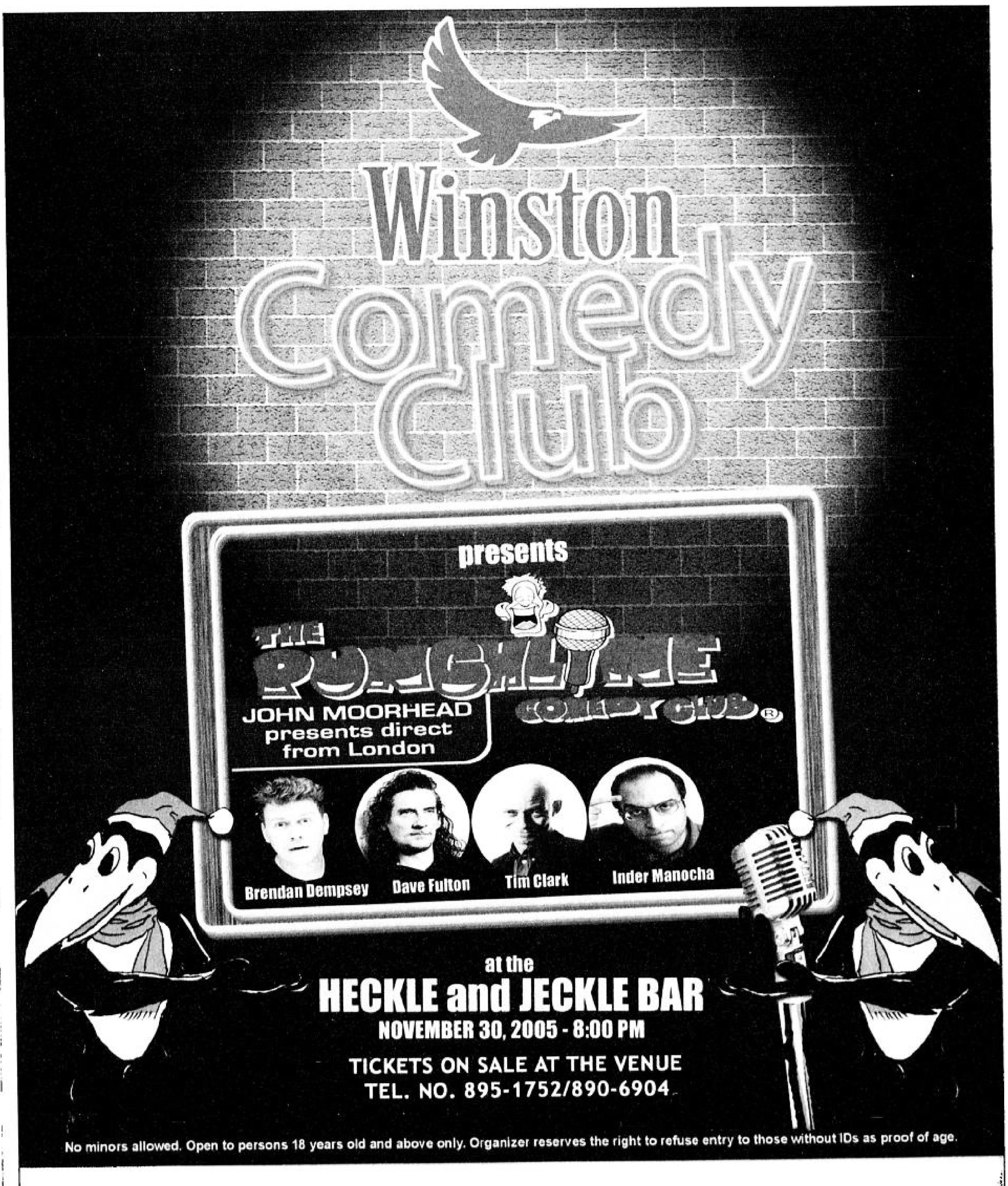
TENNIS (*Rizal Memorial Tennis Center*)
10 a.m.—Zaw Zaw Latt (MYA) vs Cecil Mamiit (PHI) (men's singles)
11 a.m.—Riza Zalameda (PHI) vs Wynne Prakusya (INA) (women's singles)
12 p.m.—Suchanun Viratprasert (THA) vs Denise Dy (PHI) (women's singles); Phonepraseuth Ekalat/Saidara Daliya (LAO) vs Johnny Arcilla/Patrick Tierro (PHI) (men's doubles)
1 p.m.—Ngo Quang Huy/Nguyen Thuy-Dung (VIE) vs Eric Taino/Riza Zalameda (PHI) (mixed doubles)
2 p.m.—Suwandi Suwandi/Wynne Prakusya (INA) vs Johnny Arcilla/Denise Dy (PHI) (mixed doubles)

VOLLEYBALL (*West Negros College Gym, Bacolod*)
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Vietnam (women's prelims)

WRESTLING (*San Andres Gym, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Men's 60, 74, 96 kg semis, women's 51, 59, 63 kg semis
4 p.m.—Men's 60, 74, 96 kg finals, women's 51, 59, 63 kg finals

WUSHU (*Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Taolu Changquan (men's and women's elims/finals), Taolu Taijiquan-Taijian (women's elims/finals)
2:30 p.m.—Sanshou (men's 48, 56, 60, 70 kg and women's 45, 52 kg finals)
7:30 p.m.—Taolu Daoshu (women's elims/finals), Taolu Jianshu (women's elims/finals); Taolu Taijiquan-Taijian (men's elims/finals)

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL (*Marikina Sports Complex*)
4 p.m.—Philippines vs Myanmar (elims)
6:30 p.m.—Vietnam vs Indonesia (elims)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Mendoza, Nuestro deliver two more wins in fencing

VETERANS WALBERT MENDOZA and Veena Tessa Nuestro hacked out victories over their Thai rivals yesterday to give the Philippines two more golds in fencing competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the San Juan Gymnasium.

Mendoza survived an emotion-filled men's saber final against Sydney Olympics bronze medalist Wiradech Kothny, 15-14, after scoring the last two points which the Thai camp wildly disputed.

Nuestro's win was even closer. She prevailed in sudden death, 10-9, over Nunta Chantasuvannasin in the women's foil gold medal match.

"They want to beat us so bad because we are the defending champions," said RP fencing head coach Bobby Garcia in Filipino on why the matches against Thailand were close and heated.

Thai officials violently protested the outcome of the Mendoza-Kothny duel, claiming it should have been the other way around.

"The last action came to fast and tough to call so it was really up to the referee," Garcia said of the final sequence.

Nguyen Van Que of Vietnam and Gian Carlo Nocom of the Philippines took the bronze medals in the men's saber.

Nuestro had to go through extra time to claim the win after her Thai foe scored two consecutive points in a span of two seconds in the final moments of regulation.

The Vietnam SEA Games silver medalist got the right of way call in the extension and the defeated Thai fencer slumped to the floor in frustration.

Nuestro and Chantasuvannasin also fought in the semis two years ago in the Vietnam SEA Games.

Candreani of Indonesia and Nguyen Thi Tuoi of Vietnam took the bronze in women's foil.

It was Mendoza's second victory over Kothny after winning their title encounter in Vietnam.

RAFFY LERMA

NUESTRO gets a victory ride from teammates and supporters.

YANG and Ting show winning forms.
ERIK ARAZAS

Yang, Ting boost

IT'S THE TURN OF THE PHILIPPINE WOmen's WUSHU team to shine as Aida Yang and Vicky Ting ruled the Taolu-Duilian (dual event with weapons) yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports and Cultural Center in Manila.

The dynamic Filipino duo scored 9.23 points after an amazing display of synchronized swordplay to raise the Philippine's golden output in the sport to four.

Myanmar's El Khaing Hwe and Ma Swe Swe Thant (9.18) settled for the silver medal, while Singapore's Deng Ying Zhi and and Ng Xin Ni (9.13) bagged the bronze.

Yang and Ting were the lon
opted to use the same type o
Both of them used swords c
their rivals who used a sword a

The win from the ladies reviv
spirits as the favored Arvin Ti
lost his title but also failed t
medal in the Taolu-Gunshu (C
sion.

Ting, who kept his Taolu-
Monday, had looked a cinch
gold, but he made a costly err
end of his performance when
handle of his cudgel.

"There is much pressure on h
he won the gold last night, bu

Ferrera, Aying shine, but RP slides to 2nd

By Musong R. Castillo

A RECORD HEAVE OF THE HAMMER AND A golden run in the men's 400 failed to keep the Philippines on top of the overall race after three days of track and field action in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

Filipinos sputtered in most finals contested at the age-old Rizal Memorial oval but their two gold medals for a total of seven came in impressive fashions.

Arniel Ferrera led all the way in the men's hammer finals then broke the SEAG record with a concluding throw of 60.47 meters.

Jerro Perater, a close buddy of Ferrera since their high school days in Negros Occidental, settled for the silver with 53.44 with Thailand's Yong Jaros Kanjus bagging the bronze at 52.74.

Then Zamboangueños Jimar Aying and Ernie Candelario turned the men's 400 meters into another 1-2 RP show with Aying dethroning the two-time defending champion Candelario with a time of 47.03 seconds.

"It actually did not matter to us who won," the 27-year-old Aying told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "As long as we get the top two spots, because we really had nothing in mind but to dominate this event."

The 28-year-old Candelaria won the 400 in the last two SEAGs with Aying checking in second both times.

Defending champion Thailand picked up four golds yesterday courtesy of its two 4x100-meter relay teams, Chatchawal Pol Yeng, who won the men's shot put with a throw of 17.06 meters and Wassana Minatho in the women's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 57.20.

MEDAL STANDINGS

	G	S	B
Thailand	7	8	13
Philippines	7	7	4
Vietnam	7	7	2
Malaysia	6	2	2
Singapore	2	1	4
Myanmar	1	3	1
Indonesia	0	2	4
Timor Leste	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0

The Thais also had seven golds but was ranked first with eight silver and 13 bronze medals.

The Philippines dropped to second with a 7-7-4 gold-silver-bronze tally with its only bronze for the day coming from Mary Grace Milgar in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:01.37.

Vietnam trailed the Philippines closely in third spot, just two bronze medals behind after Truon Thanh Hang broke the women's 1,500-meter standard with a time of four minutes and 18.50 seconds. Do Thi Bong made it a Vietnamese 1-2 at 4:21.46 with Olivia Sadi checking in third for Indonesia at 4:22.39.

The 24-year-old Ferrera, the defending champion, broke the 12-year-old mark of 58.80 set by Indon Dudung Suhendri in Singapore. He actually shattered the record in two of his five legitimate throws, and said Perater gave him a valuable tip on making a more powerful turn.

"We worked hand in hand for the country," said Ferrera in Filipino. "He (Perater) helped me in establishing the record."

Despite the meager Day 3 haul, Patafa president Go Teng Kok remained optimistic that athletics will meet his prediction of at least 10 gold medals with just two days of competition left.

"We still have so many events to go," Go said.

FERRERA leaves the turf celebrating his uncha

Angeles cops first shoot gold medal

JUANITO ANGELES RULED THE practical shotgun automatic event as the Filipino marksmen broke into the victory column of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the PSC-PNSA shooting range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Angeles scored 20.47 points, clinching the gold in his first SEAG at the expense of compatriot Ariel Santos, who had 20.71. Singapore's Tan Guan Hua took the bronze on a score of 22.86.

Though Santos topped the first and fourth stages, Angeles' performance in the second and third stages proved decisive.

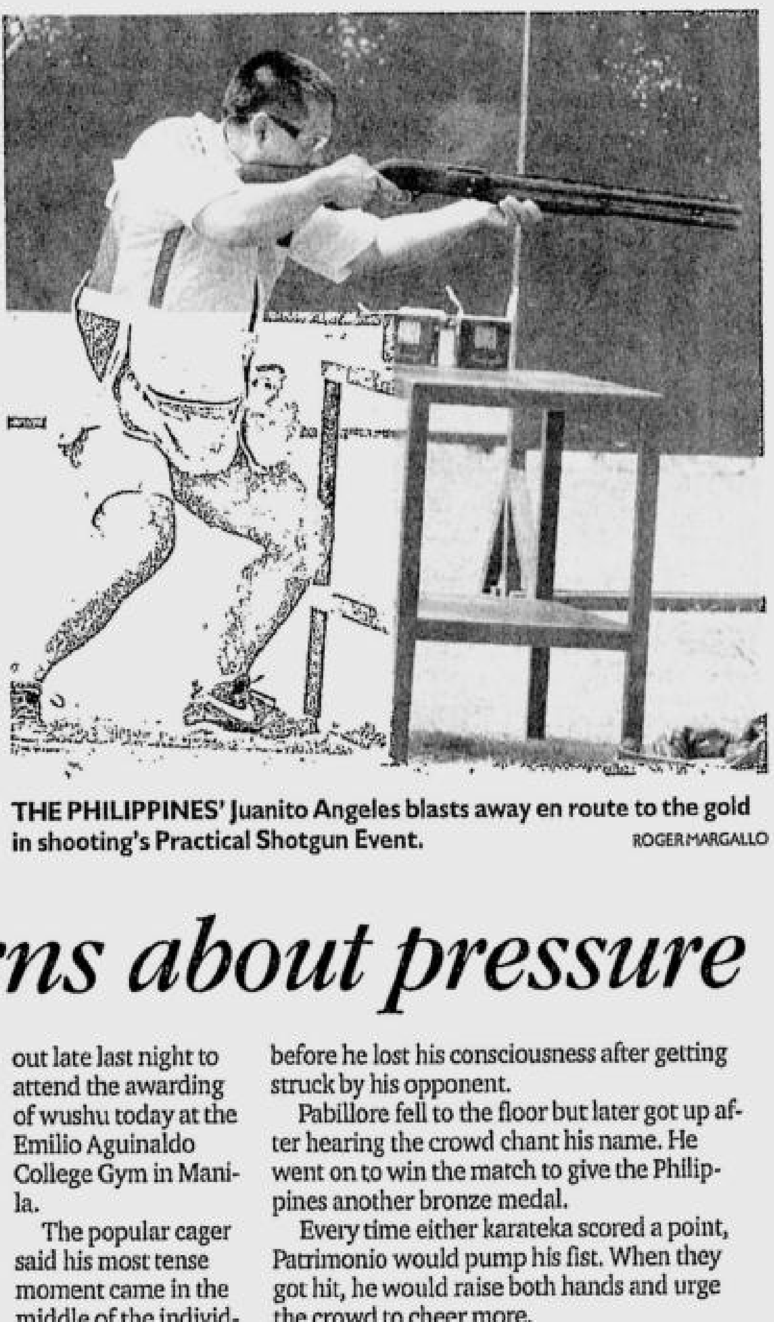
"Never in our practice *na tinalo ako ni* Angeles. Today, his shots were spectacular," Santos said.

Hard work, Santos added, paid off for the team.

"We practiced consistently to build our confidence," Angeles Said. "We practiced every day and shot 200 rounds per practice, up to the point that our arms were getting numb and our shoulders bruised. It paid off and the feeling's great."

Santos thanked the PSC and the PNSA for "helping us develop our shooting skills" with their support.

However, Gerard Velez and Richard Gomez got shut out in the standard shotgun event won by Thailand's Patrachatra Vichiensun over teammate Pitipoom Phasee snared the gold and silver. Wee Ewe Lay Laurence John of Singapore landed the bronze. *Rufino Lopez III*


THE PHILIPPINES' Juanito Angeles blasts away en route to the gold in shooting's Practical Shotgun Event.
ROGER MARGALLO

'The Captain' learns about pressure

CEBU CITY—HE'S FACED COUNTLESS TENSE situations before, none of which could force him to come apart.

Yesterday, Alvin Patrimonio was finally introduced to the word pressure.

"It's different when you're out there competing because you know you can control your fate," said the four-time Most Valuable Player of the Philippine Basketball Association. "But when you're watching, you really feel nervous.

"So this is what pressure feels like."

Patrimonio was at the Mandaue City sports complex to watch the RP karatedo bets in action. San Miguel Corp., which sponsored the training of the karatekas for the biennial meet, assigned Patrimonio as an overseer for the sport.

And The Captain could hardly stay still in his seat during nerve-wracking moments.

Patrimonio arrived early yesterday and flew out late last night to attend the awarding of wushu today at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

PATRIMONIO

The popular cager said his most tense moment came in the middle of the individual kumite matches of Gretchen Malalad and Joey Pabillore.

Malalad had to go through a sudden death round in the championship match of the +60 kg. division against Jamalliah BT Jamalludin of Malaysia before winning the first gold for the country in karatedo.

Pabillore, on the other hand, was leading, 1-0, in his bronze medal fight against Vietnam before he lost his consciousness after getting struck by his opponent.

Pabillore fell to the floor but later got up after hearing the crowd chant his name. He went on to win the match to give the Philippines another bronze medal.

Every time either karateka scored a point, Patrimonio would pump his fist. When they got hit, he would raise both hands and urge the crowd to cheer more.

And then he made sure he never would get lost in the action, asking what every move meant and how every point was scored.

Patrimonio also assisted in the awarding of Marna Pabillore, who won for the country a second gold medal in karate. After shaking Pabillore's hand, the former Purefoods skipper gave Pabillore a kiss on both cheeks, sending the crowd into loud cheers. *Brian Ochoa, Cebu Daily News*

Pacalso grabs k
Bitbit delivers i

By Francis Ochoa

CEBU CITY—THE SALUTE WAS MANDATORY. The gold medal? He just wanted to give his Commander-in-Chief something to smile about.

Police Senior Insp. Nelson Pacalso, summoning every shred of strength and inspiration inside him, clawed out from deep inside the jaws of defeat to bag the third gold medal in karate in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

At 35 the most senior in the RP squad, Pacalso rallied to nip Vietnam's Nguyen Bao Tuan in the finals of the -65 kg individual kumite much to the screaming delight of a packed Mandaue City Sports Complex crowd that included no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pacalso trailed 1-4 with 58 ticks left before uncorking a desperate charge to hack out a 6-5 win that came after the twin golds of Gretchen Malalad and Marna Pabillore Monday.

"I'm so proud," said Pacalso in Filipino.

"Winning the medal in front of my countrymen makes this even more special," he added after receiving his medal, his first in two SEA Games, from Ms Arroyo.

After the Chief Executive slipped the medal around his neck, Pacalso gave a crisp salute, which the President returned.

"The salute came automatically. She is, after all, my Commander-in-Chief," said Pacalso. "I'm just glad that amid all the problems she is facing, I gave her a little something to cheer about."

The RP delegation in Cebu also came up with a gold in mountainbike when Maritess Bitbit ruled the cross country event with aplomb, topping it with more than three minutes to spare over her closest pursuer.

Bitbit won the gold medal in 49 minutes and 54.91 seconds, 3:45.99 clear of Indonesian bet Jirapan Gantharat.

The men's squad, however, suffered a sur-

NELSON Pacalso (right) connec

prise defeat when Indone
Dadi came out of nowhere t
2:18:48.20.

Frederick Feliciano pla
2:21:10.85, while Eusebio
defending champion, finish
with a clocking of 2:23:26.9.

Although under time p
did not mount a rally attemp

"I decided to do it one po
said. "If I tried the big m
counter and add to his count
self to relax and get back a p

Later, Malalad failed in he
women's open category and
medal in the +60kg class.
in her first fight, Malalad
Yamini Gopasalamy, who to
hind Thailand's Y. Torrattan

Malalad finished with a b

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e pair who weapons. mpared to d a spear. ed Filipino g not only haul any dgel) divi-

aoshu title o win the r near the he lost the

im because I'am glad that he was still able to perform well," Wushu Federation lifetime honorary president Francis Chan said.

However, Chan was far from disappointed with Ting's performance. He said that unexpected situations have always been a part of the game and there are still golds that Ting may possibly win.

Phi Wai Phyo of Myanmar dethroned Ting in the Taolu-Gunshu with 9.23 points, beating Vietnam's Nguyen Tien Dat (9.21). Another Vietnamese, Truong Quoc Chi, was a close third (9.20).

In the other female event, Vietnam's Nguyen Thi My Duc scored an easy gold in the Taolu-Qiangshu division (9.30). Singapore's Khor Poh Chin (9.20) was second.

Former Philippine Basketball Association icon Alvin Patrimonio awarded the medals to the second-day winners.

In the Sanshou events, Philippine standouts Rhea May Rifani and Rexel Nganhayna thrashed their opponents to reach the finals in the women's 52kg and men's 56kg divisions, respectively.

Nganhyana knocked out Myanmar's Maung Maung Than with a series of punches with 38 seconds left in the second round.

Edward Folayang also secured a finals seat after taking down the hot-headed Metee Phonork of Thailand. *Llanesca Panti*

llenged victory. RYAN LIM

arate gold; n m'bike

s against his Vietnamese foe. CDN PHOTO/JITO TECSON

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cond in nes, the nal third

Pacalso points. time," he e might told my- time." win the her gold walkover Malaysian silver be- a. medal, one of two the karatekas bagged for the day. Mae Eso, competing in the -48kg women's individual kumite class, won the other bronze medal for the country.

Meanwhile, the women's sepak takraw squad failed in its gold medal bid in heartbreaking fashion when it lost to Myanmar at the University of San Carlos gym.

The men's squad settled for the bronze after taking a blow in the semifinals.

The women's squad actually tied Myanmar with 550 points in the hoop event, but lost via the degree-of-difficulty rule.

Myanmar's winning move was the front kick, a style not employed by the Philippine team, which was composed of Rhea Padrigo, Irene Apdon, Gerlyn Evora, Sarah Catain and Deseree Autor. *With reports from Calvin Cordova, Cebu Daily News and Marc Anthony Camasura, contributor*

Bowler Yap bags gold in singles; Tee second

By Jun Engracia

MARIA CECILIA YAP REACHED OUT FROM THE depths of fifth place and a 47-pinfall deficit with an explosive final game to capture the women's singles gold medal for the Philippines at the start of bowling action yesterday at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque City.

But Ryan Lalisang of Indonesia spoiled the host bowlers' bid for a sweep of the opening keg events of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, bucking the perfect 300 of youthful Filipino Markwin Tee to win the men's singles for a rare bowling gold for his country.

The 28-year-old Yap, who had been suffering through the season with tendonitis that required surgery on her right ring finger, bowled a 257 in the final game to overtake four players and win by 16 pinfalls over an equally rallying Aziela Zandra, Malaysia's 19-year-old sensation.

"I did not expect to win," a tearful and ecstatic Yap said after the victory. "I was hoping for a silver or a bronze, but I did not expect this."

It was her second gold in the SEA Games. She was part of the five-woman team that captured the gold in 1997 in Jakarta.

Searing comeback

Two Indonesians—Novie Phang and Happy Soediyono—were 1-2 going into the sixth and final game, but they faded in the stretch in the face of the searing comeback of Yap and Zandra.

Yap had a six-game total of 1358 while Zandra, who rolled a 258 final game, ended with the silver at 1342.

Novie, who had led most of the way after a 278 in the second game, dropped to third with a final game 186. She had a total of 1334.

Lalisang rolled a 233 final game for a six-game total of 1425 that gave him the gold. Tee closed out with 1400 for the silver and the hard-luck Lie Joe Jam of Indonesia took the bronze with a 1390 total.

Liza del Rosario and Jojo Cañare, who were in contention going into the last game, finished in a tie for fifth at 1302. Del Rosario had a final game 192 while Cañare had 197.

Liza Clutario opened with a 244 but faded starting in the third game and ended up in eighth place with a 1273. Two other Filipinos were never in the hunt. Elaine Florencio was 17th with 1199 and Irene Garcia finished 23rd with 1149.

Tee, a 21-year-old business management senior at Ateneo, also had less expectations after rolling a first game 168 that left him in 33rd place in the 37-man field. But he made an almost superhuman effort to come back. He rolled games of 238 and 236 before he went flawless in the fourth game for his fifth perfect game of his career and his second at the Pearl lanes.

He rolled strike after strike, the roar of the home town crowd getting louder with each roll. He had nothing but Xs on his scoresheet and by the time he was done with perfection, he was in third place and threatening the Indonesian duo of Lie Joe Jam and Ryan Lalisang.

11 consecutive strikes

The two Indonesians had rolled identical opening 235s with Lie taking a huge lead when he rolled 11 consecutive strikes for a 290 in the third game.

Going into the final game, Tee was 40 pinfalls behind Lie and 12 behind Lalisang. And he was playing head to head with the two Indonesians.

When Lie faded with two 7-10 splits in the fifth and 7th frame, Tee had overtaken the leader, but not Lalisang.

Tee then ran into some bad luck, settling for spares when the No. 7 and No. 10 pins just wouldn't fall despite making what he described as perfect hits. He managed a 235 after punching out the final frame but he still fell short. Lalisang was consistent to the very end.

"Fantastic," said the diminutive Lalisang of his victory, Indonesia's first bowling gold in memory.

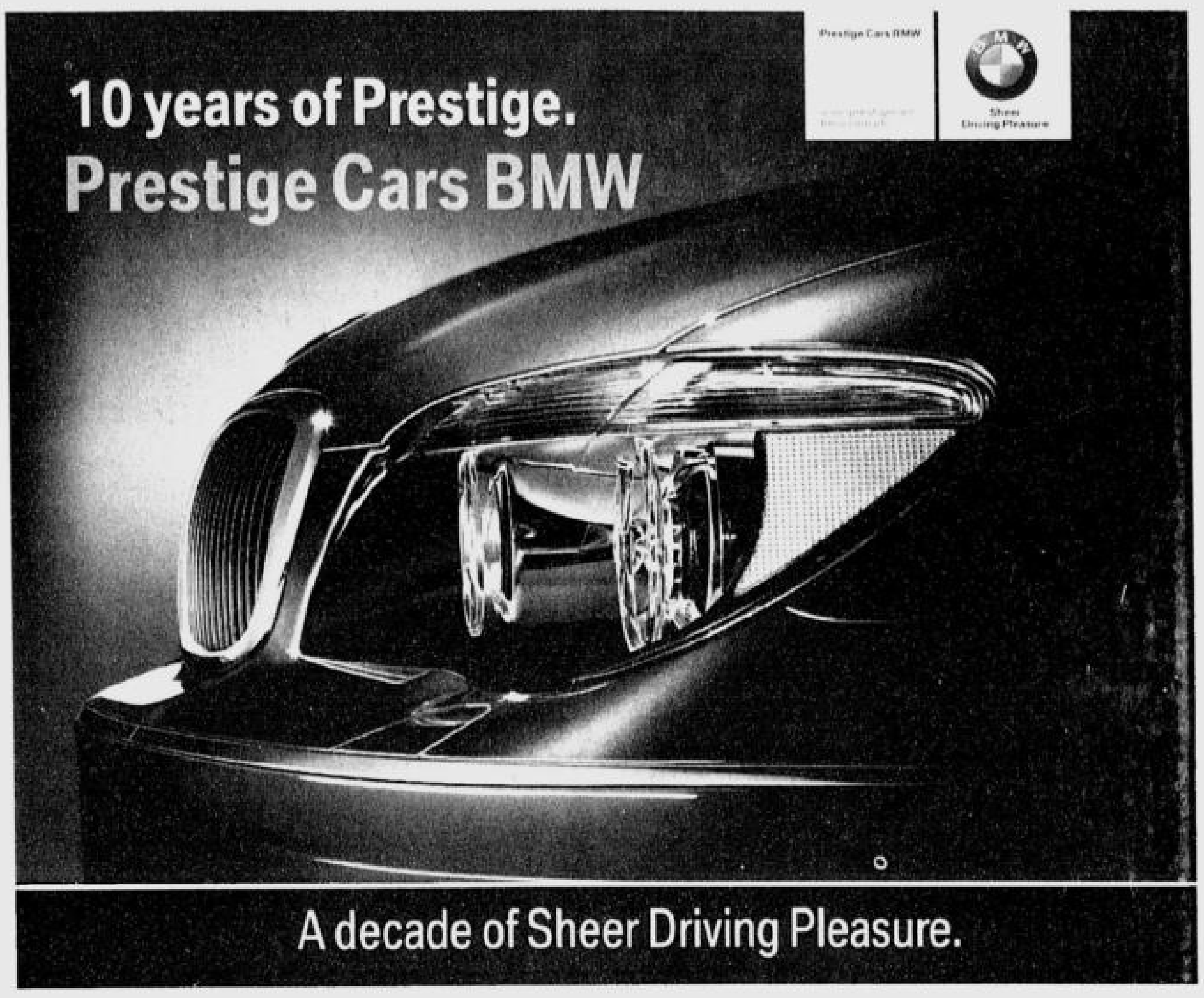
Purvis Granger, the Filipinos' American coach, said he was not surprised with the victory of Indonesia's No. 1 male bowler.

"I've played with him in the Asian circuit and he's very consistent," Granger said. "I always thought he was one competitor who could do us harm."

But Granger rued Tee's 168 in the first game.

"He just got off to a bad start but he did everything right the rest of the way. He had bad breaks. But then, that's bowling," he shrugged. *With a report from Eric C. Abenojar*

More SEA Games stories on A30



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8:30 – 9:00 Opening Ceremonies
Invocation
National Anthem
Welcome Address
Introduction of the Guest Speaker
Hon. Avelina A. De La Rea
Commissioner, PRC
9:00 – 10:00 "Let's 3G with ZTE"
Loren Xiao, Tech Mgr for 3G Technologies, ZTE
10:00 – 11:00 "APC's Infrastruxure: The On-Demand Data Center Architecture"
Norberto Avila Jr., Product Manager, APC ISX
11:00 – 12:00 "NERA Corporate Presentation" & "Digital TV Broadcasting"
Engr. Nimfa T. Mariano, SVP/Country Manager, NERA, Philippines
Joseph M. Rebolledo, Sr Business Segment Mgr for TMN, NERA, Philippines
12:00 – 1:30 Luncheon Seminar with PLDT
1:30 – 2:15 "LCD Technology"
Russer Cabrera, Product Manager, EPSON Multimedia Projectors
2:15 – 3:15 "Third Generation Mobile Communications"
Mr. Leo Adriano, Product Manager, Ericsson
3:30 – 4:00 BREAK
4:00 – 5:00 Updates on Telecommunications Regulations
Engr. Edgardo V. Cabarios
President, IECEP
Director, Common Carrier Authorization Department, NTC
5:00 – 6:00 Presentation of Nominees for the Election of IECEP Directors
Engr. Fernando C. Morales, Chairman on Elections
6:00 – 11:00 Annual General Meeting and IECEP Night

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Beach volley bets kick off bid today

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPPINE squads are in high spirits when they begin their quest for a first-ever gold medal today in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games beach volleyball tournament here.

Filipino-Americans Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua, playing as RP women's Team B, will be pitted against Vietnam's Mai Thi Hoa and Nguyen Thi Tiep in Pool A at 9 a.m., before Team B's Cecille Tabuena and Michelle Laborte take on defending champions Kamoltip Kulna and Jarunee Sannok of Thailand-A in Pool B at 10 a.m.

In men's Pool B play, the RP-A tandem of Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo goes up against the reigning Indon champions playing as Team B at 4 p.m., while Fil-Ams Chad Mowrey and Justin Schnor battle Malaysians Lee Kwong Tung and Mohammad Nasiruddin Mohd Hashim at 5.

"The players are in tip-top shape mentally and physically," said RP coach Rustico Camangian.

RP squads last competed in the 1997 SEA Games in Jakarta where they placed fourth in both the men's and women's divisions.

Camangian said the Filipino spikers are almost assured of opening-day wins, except for Laborte and Tabuena, who will play Thailand's best beach volleyball bets. *Christian Irl Tan*

THE PHILIPPINES' Alexander Borromeo fails to clear a cross to Rudie Bin Ramli (right) who heads in Malaysia's first goal in the 14th minute. REM ZAMORA

RP spikers lose again; women sure of bronze

BACOLOD CITY—NOT EVEN THE arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo could inspire the Philippine men's volleyball squad in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

The RP spikers suffered their second loss in as many outings after being walloped by a towering Vietnam team, 25-11, 25-17, 25-15, in front of the 4,000 partisan crowd at the West Negros College Gym here.

The loss also eliminated the Filipinos from medal contention before they take on powerhouses Thailand and Indonesia.

The RP squad last won a medal—a bronze—in 1991 when it hosted the biennial meet.

"We just did not play our hearts out," said RP coach Ernesto Pamilar.

Skipper Minh Dung Pham spearheaded Vietnam's offensive demolition, posting 15 points on 10 kills.

"This is a very big win for us because we still have a chance to reach the finals," Vietnam coach Manh Hung Nguyen said.

Meanwhile, the RP volleybelles are already assured of the bronze after winning against Myanmar, 25-18, 22-25, 25-20, 25-19, Monday.

The women's team coached by Ramil de Jesus will collide with Vietnamese, who defeated the Filipinos in the 2001 and 2003 Games semifinals, at 3:30 p.m. today.

The RP lady spikers finished third in the two meets. *Christian Irl Tan*

RP booters bow out

Gritty Malaysians rally to foil 10-man Filipino side

By Cedelf Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—STRIKER PHIL YOUNGHUSBAND had his breakout game for the Philippines but his efforts went down the drain as Malaysia showed the RP booters the door with a 4-2 victory last night in the Southeast Asian Games men's football tournament at the jam-packed Panaad Stadium.

The crowd of 20,000 was looking forward to a celebration as the Philippines seized a 2-1 lead with Younghusband's header in the 46th minute off a cross from his brother James, but the Malaysians were unrelenting in their attack from there and rallied for the win that set them up for a semifinal clash with Vietnam.

The RP Team—the best ever assembled in years—thus ended its campaign in third place in Group A, behind Thailand and Malaysia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo watched the first 20 minutes of the match at the VIP box only to see Malaysia break the ice in the 14th minute through Rudie Bin Ramli's header and RP midfielder Peter Jaugan sent off in the 18th minute after receiving his second yellow card.

Phil Younghusband, 18, put the Philippines back in the game in the 33rd minute with a blistering header inside the box, after pouncing on Chad Gould's deflected cross.

Surendren Rasiah struck twice in a 10-minute span in the second half, converting a 60th minute penalty kick off a Bervic Italia handball infraction and completing a 40-yard run with a thunderous strike inside the box. Back after a one-game suspension, Ramli sealed the win with a header in the 86th minute, breaking the hearts of the crowd.

In a highly-physical match, both teams finished the game with 10 men on the pitch as Malaysian Amir Mudin was ejected early in the second half for a rough tackle on Arnie Pasinabo.

RP XI coach Aris Caslib said the inability to manage the lead as his team's waterloo.

"We are still learning how to protect the lead and that's how we would raise the level of our national team," he said.

Despite the loss, Caslib was satisfied with the RP team's performance. "I'm proud of our performance. This is a proud moment for RP football."

Foreign press blast poor RP preparation

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SAY THE 23RD Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) is poorly organized compared to the last time Vietnam hosted the biennial meet in 2003.

Dang Khoa, a radio broadcaster from the Voice of Ho Chi Minh City said he expected a lot more from the Philippines considering that it is the country's third time to host the regional meet, the first two in 1981 and 1991.

On his way to Marikina yesterday, Khoa rode the bus provided by the Press Center but the driver did not know the way to the venue in Marikina. "It is better to hire a cab even if I have to pay," Khoa said.

"The SEAG in Vietnam was a lot better," Khoa said.

According to Khoa, the Press Center in Vietnam then had a television set for every sports in the SEAG set up for journalists, transportation was reliable, and the results were given on time.

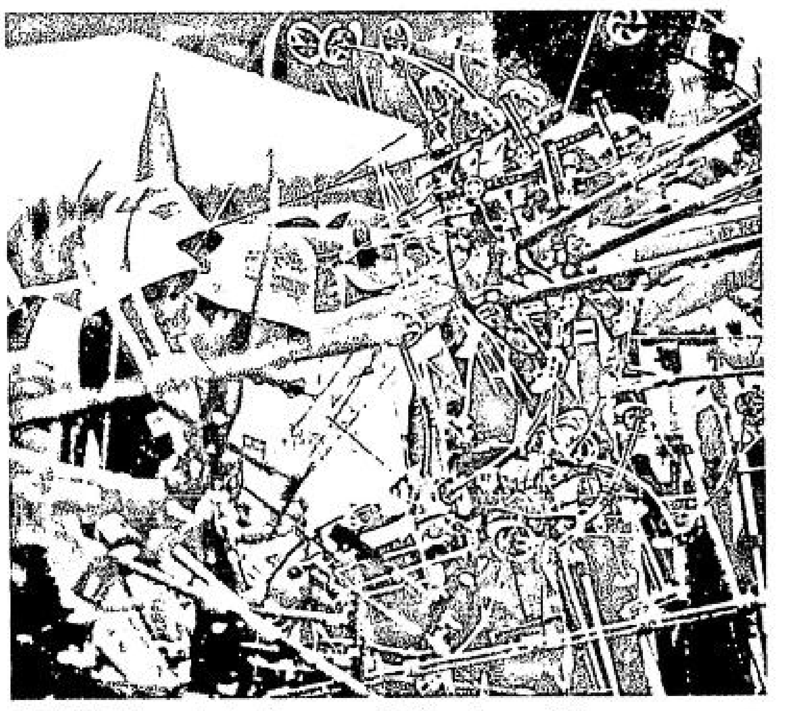
Jaturan Jaturantanon of Siamport Newspaper in Thailand said they have been experiencing difficulty with the computers, which they say are not enough for everyone.

Clarito Samson, Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee media bureau chief, said the computer system suffered a system error. *Meysil Yamat*

23RD Southeast Asian Games
November 27 · December 5, 2005
ABC SPORTS
LEAD BROADCASTER

SEAG volley 'live' on ABC-5

ABC SPORTS WILL AGAIN AIR THE VOLLEYBALL competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It will be followed by yesterday's highlights in athletics, boxing and badminton at 12:30 p.m. Boxing competitions will also be shown at 7 p.m. and from 11 p.m. right after ABC Sports airs the day's SEAG highlights at 10:30 p.m.


ARCHERS in action in the women's 70-meter qualifying. ROMY HOMILLADA

Archers struggle to hit the target

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—UNABLE to settle down, Filipino Olympian Jasmine Figueroa landed 13th yesterday in the qualifying round of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games women's archery competition here.

But Henry Manalang, Figueroa's trainer, sees no imminent danger coming her way at the moment.

"It's just the qualifying round," Manalang told the INQUIRER during a break in the 70-meter women's recurve qualifying for individual rankings. "She (Figueroa) gets better during the Olympic rounds."

Fidgety at the start, Figueroa, from Balut, Tondo, scored 287 points in the 70-meter target and had 316 at 60 meters for an aggregate of 603.

The women archers will compete in the 50 and 30 meters today in the short-distance qualifying. Competitors' combined outputs in the short and long-distance qualifying will determine the individual rankings in the elimination round tomorrow.

"I really felt the pressure but I'm working on it," Figueroa, a revelation in the 2004 Athens Olympics, said in Filipino. "Hopefully, I'll be able to overcome the pressure (today)."

Indonesia's Yasmidar Hamid paced the long-distance qualifying with 659 points followed by compatriots Rina Dewipuspita Sari (651) and Novia Nuraini (644).

Rachel Cabral was the highest ranking Filipino at fifth with 626 points, while Edwina delos Reyes was running 11th (604).

Figueroa shared 12th to 13th places with Malaysia's Fairuz Hanisahche Ibrahim, but Ibrahim had more bullseyes.

In the individual compound, Lang Han Keong of Malaysia led the 90- and 70-meter qualifying with 679 points. Malaysia's Soo Tech Kim had 660 and Myanmar's Ting Leong Fong made 658 points.

Earl Benjamin Yap of the Philippines ranked sixth with 655, Gil Gabriel was eighth (649) while Adam Jimenez was 10th (644) in the long-distance qualifying.

Singapore leads seven sailing events

SUBIC BAY, OLONGAPO CITY—THE Singaporeans are looking really good.

Provisional results after the first day of races Monday show Singapore leading in six events and sharing top spot in one in the Southeast Asian Games sailing action at the Subic Bay Yacht Club.

The Singaporeans dominated action on Course A with wins in the 420 boys, 420 girls, 420 Open, and Laser Radial divisions. They also topped the 470 girls and Hobie Cat races held on Course B.

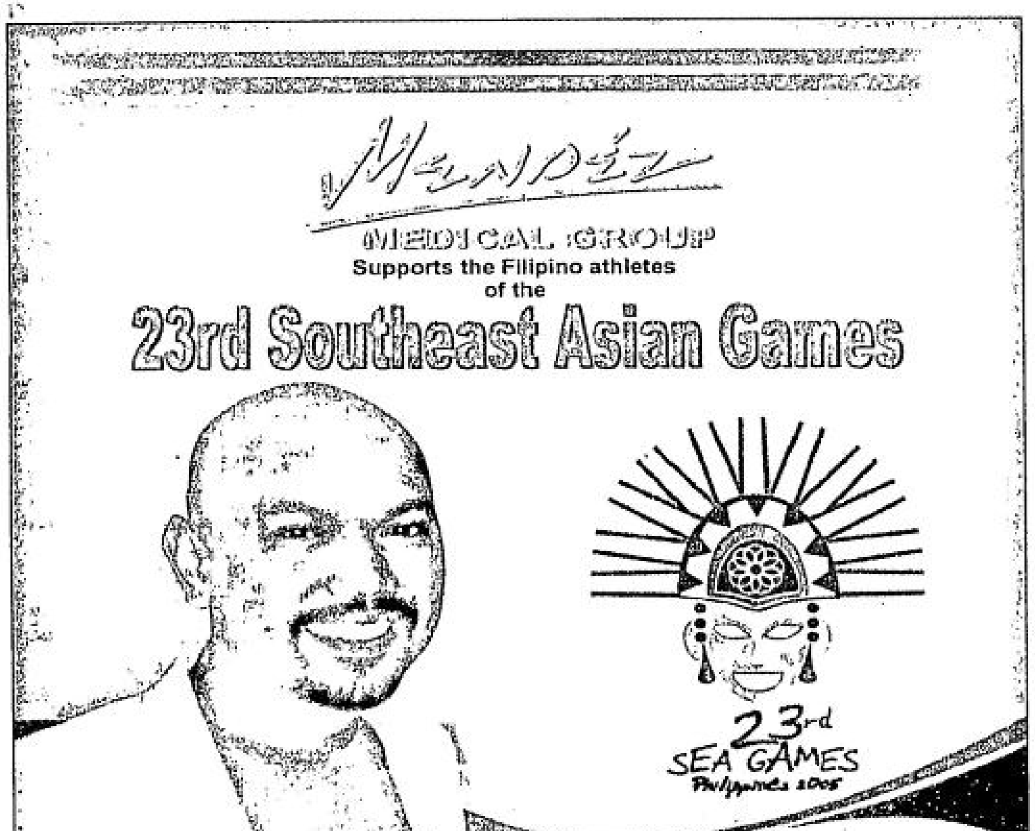
The Laser men event proved the day's most exciting event with Singapore's Maximilian Soh Khan Tat, Thailand's Manat Phothong, and Malaysia's Mohd Romzi Bin Mahamad sharing the lead. The Philippines' Joel Mejarito stood a distant fourth.

Boardsailing provided the brightest hope for RP with German Paz leading the RS:X class and Reneric Moreno running second in the Formula class.

Other Filipinos posting noteworthy performances were Rafael Buitre and Richly Magsaysay, who trailed Singapore's Xu Yuan Zhan and Justin Wong Ning Ho in the 420 Open.

Race protests were settled last night by a jury led by Japan's Masa Ishii.

Thailand's Paradon Chuasa-Nga was disqualified from the second 420 boys race, while Singapore's Sean Lee Teik Ren also received one race disqualification in the Optimist boys. *Jose Paolo Lacdao*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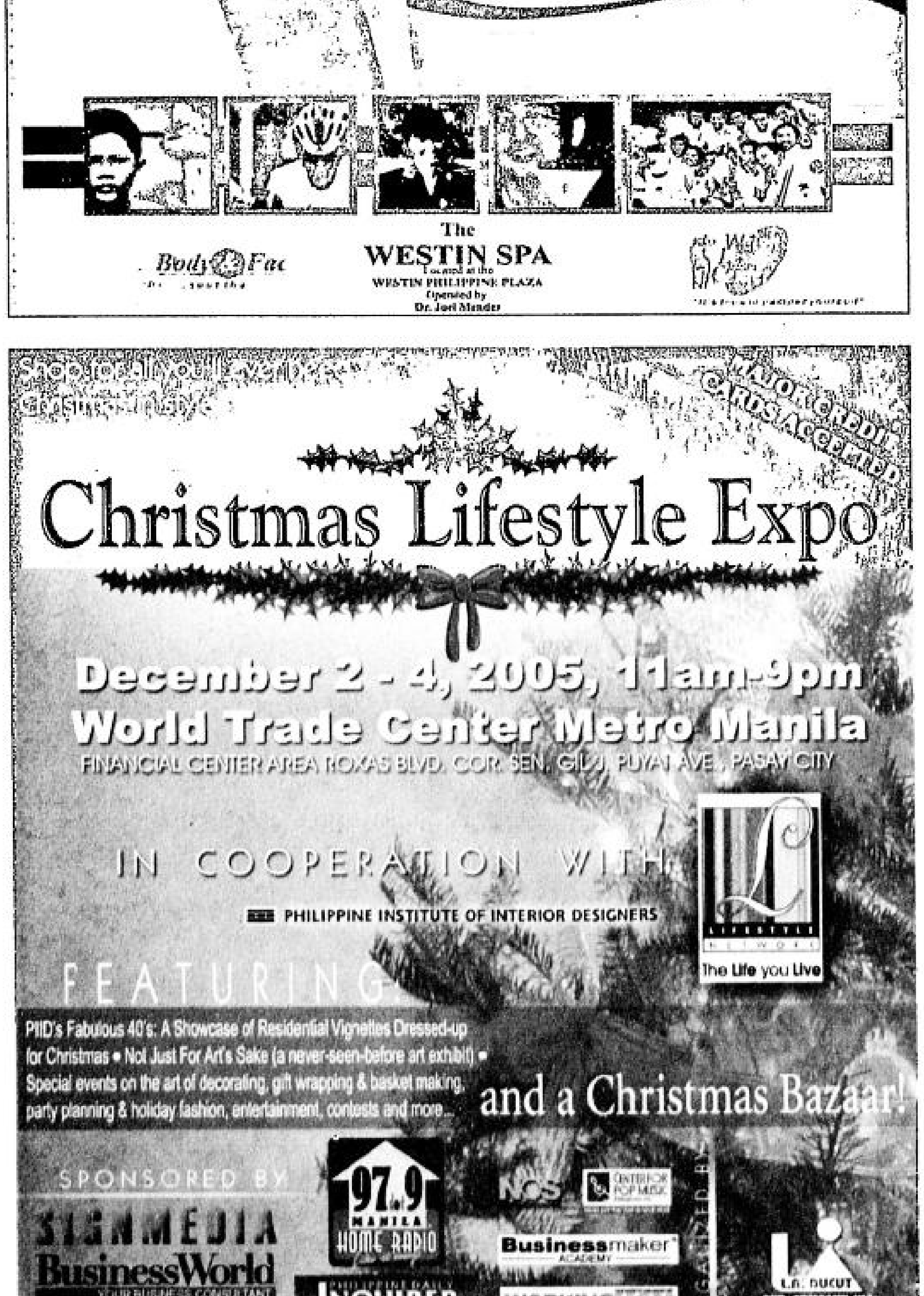
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PUMAREN

Pumaren resigns as Harbour Centre coach

By Beth Celis

DINDO PUMAREN RESIGNED AS HARBOUR Centre head coach the other day to concentrate on handling the University of the East Warriors in the UAAP.

"My job as UE coach is going to be very demanding this coming season. As host of next year's UAAP, our target is nothing less than the championship," he said.

"We were fourth the past two years. This time we are seriously preparing for a championship this early," said the youngest of the Pumaren brood, who thanked Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero for giving him the opportunity to coach in the PBL.

"It was a good experience working with you and the team, but at this point, I think it's best that I step down, to focus on UE," said Dindo in his resignation letter to Romero.

S'woods seizes Fil-Am golf lead

BAGUIO CITY—MANILA SOUTHWOODS bounced back from a so-so start with 107 points yesterday to wrest the Fil division lead after two rounds of the second Seniors Fil-Am Invitational championship.

Butch Brodett played the 4,038-yard Baguio Country Club course with a five over par 66 for 31 points to pace the defending champions.

Florene de los Santos supported Brodett with 28, Jun Fontanilla contributed 25 and Eugene Arriesgado added 23.

Together with their earlier 99, the Carmona, Cavite campaigners go into the third round with 206, seven points ahead of Camp John Hay, which shot 103, and Villamor, which lost ground with a 94 after a frontrunning 105 on the first day.

SMART, Wilson Sports, Eva Air and Club Car are the major sponsors of the event. Citibank, San Miguel Corp., Travel Club, Information Professional Inc. (IPI), Ottica Eyewear, Ayala Land, Orchard Le Tigre, U-Bix, Raymundo Trophies and Sculptures and Swing Magazine are the other backers.

Over at the nearby par 69, 5,006-yard Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp Aguinaldo retained its slim lead in the Am division with 159 (77-82).

The Agui golfers drew a 25 from Clyde Fernandez. Frank Manalo added 22, Leoncio Valderama 19 and Cesar Vinluan 16.

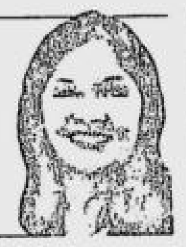
Mizuno-Riviera matched Camp Aguinaldo's round on Philip Judan's 29, Frank Manalo's 22, Leo Calderon's 19 and Cesar Vinluan's 16 to maintain second place at 157.

Camp John Hay shot 67 to remain third with 148.

Pines Golf of California matched Villamor's 94 to remain in the cellar at 163 in the round that began in sunshine and ended in a noon-day downpour that forced the 196 players from 36 teams to unfurl their giant-sized umbrellas for 35 minutes.

PBL team eyes Shell franchise

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

I HEARD ABOUT THE DEAL THREE weeks ago but seriously doubted its veracity. As they say, once burned, twice cautious.

According to my source, Shell is in the final stages of concluding the sale of its PBA franchise to a PBL team. However, no figures, no details were provided. Just a lead. It was up to me to fill in the blanks.

I didn't discard the tip since there was a possibility that it might be accurate. I went through the usual check-up routine.

First, I texted Shell's Bobby Kanapi to seek confirmation of the report. No response.

"Could it be that your cellphone is inside the freezer again?" I texted him again, insinuating that something hot must be brewing, the reason why he is shunning communication with the press the way he did when Shell was disbanding.

Bobby called shortly after that. He flatly denied the report.

"How I wish!" he said. "Unfortunately, it's not true."

I took his word for it, and thought no more of the report.

* * *

Over the PBA All-Star Weekend in Laoag, I thought of making direct inquiries. Nobody inside the PBA office was aware of an ongoing transaction between Shell and a PBL team, but I was told that Bobby Kanapi had called the PBA commissioner's office recently to ask for the guidelines on the sale of a franchise.

Still, I wasn't convinced that something solid was going on. Perhaps it was coincidental. After all, Bobby had mentioned that he was going to ask for the guidelines.

Yesterday, however, I happened to stumble on a valuable piece of information. The consultant of the PBL team negotiating with Shell who was being tapped by Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero to replace head coach Dindo Pumaren confided that he was not too keen on joining the Portmasters, because his team was definitely joining the PBA next year.

Perhaps if the offer was only for a short period of time, the team consultant might consider the proposition.

Dindo resigned from his post the other day, explaining that he needed to concentrate on the training of the UE Warriors for next season's UAAP wars. I haven't had the chance to dig deeper into this matter, but for the moment I am taking Dindo's word for it.

* * *

I'll bet you thought that Harbour Centre was the PBL squad doing business with Shell.

Well it's not. That transaction was over and done with some months ago.

Over a late dinner following Shell's farewell bash which I missed (the party was over when I arrived), Bobby and I talked about this aborted deal with Harbour.

According to Bobby K, Mikee Romero's final offer for the Shell franchise was P25 million, which he found way too low, considering that one of the conditions Mikee imposed was for Shell to maintain and finance the Turbochargers up to the end of the conference, after which he takes over.

"That would cost us something like P30 million, if we kept the team until the end of the 2005 first conference. Wouldn't it be ridiculous if we sold the franchise for P25 million and spend P30 million maintaining the team for another conference?" Bobby said.

I didn't think it would be ridiculous. I thought it would be downright stupid, because instead of generating revenue on the franchise, Shell stood to lose P5 million. This I told a grinning Bobby whose mind I could almost read like the great mentalist Erik Manna, a guest during Bobong Velez's birthday party, who had the uncanny ability to read people's minds.

Bobby K must have detected that he was dealing with a very young but very shrewd businessman, which is why he decided to call off the transaction.

By this time, Bobby K and the owners of the PBL team have probably shook hands on the deal, if the reports and info I've gathered are accurate.

Question is, will Harbour Centre still join the PBA next year as promised even if it has to pay the full franchise cost of P60 million?

SPORTSWATCH

Antipolo hosts Puno Cup

EIGHT teams will see action in the first Nature's Spring-backed NBC (National Basketball Conference) pre-season tournament which opens on Dec. 2 at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City. Called the NBC-ABL Cong. Ronnie Puno Cup, the tourney features first NBC champion Tribu Sugbu, Forward Taguig, Spring Cooking Oil, Bacchus-Metro Manila, Antipolo Antips, Vic Sumulong Ex-PBA All Stars, engineer Vic Juego Jr.'s Pice-Rizal Boysen Phils. and Homer Cagers. The weeklong cagefest is supported by Spring Cooking Oil and Sulpicio Lines. The opening matches pit Antips against Bacchus at 10 a.m., Vic Sumulong against Spring at noon, Pice against Forward Taguig at 2 p.m. and Homer Cagers against Skygo/Sirlitz-backed Tribu Sugbu at 4.

LPC cockfest stakes P1.5M

LAS Piñas Coliseum's Pamigay Premyo Part II 6-Cock Derby, an annual cockfest with P1.5 in guaranteed prize, is slated on Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2. As bonus, the champion will get two brand-new motorcycles. A P100,000 prize also awaits participants who will score two points in the elimination rounds. Entry fee is P8,800. Derby host is former Mayor Nene Aguilar. A participant may choose to field an entry in any of the elimination days (Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26). The finals is on Feb. 2. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910, 0926-7450375 (Julius) at 0920-7501268 (Mike).

Big field seen in Apordabol

A BIG field of participants is expected in Roligon Mega Cockpit's opener for the 2005–2006 cock season, the Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5- cock derby which is set Dec. 5, 7, 10 and 12. Cockers and breeders who took part in the 2005 Bakbakan are among those who registered yesterday, said derby host Rolly Ligon. The entry fee is P8,800 for a guaranteed prize of P2 million and a brand-new Mazda for the fastest win champion. Three days of elimination (2-cock) will be held on Dec. 5, 7 and 10. The finals is on Dec. 12. Reservation of cockhouses is ongoing and interested parties may call 851–2275, 833–1638 and 852–9812. The Apordabol cockfest attracted 328 entries last year.

Negros bets top Bakbakan

NEGROS Occidental breeders Al Garcia and Ricoy Palmares emerged as champions in the 2005 NFGB Bakbakan 9–stag derby at the Araneta Coliseum Monday night. Garcia and Palmares' combined entry, D and B Algar, posted a perfect score of nine points to emerge victorious in a record field of 856 entries. Bakbakan is an annual undertaking of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders in cooperation with Gran Matador and B-Meg. The three–month stagfest starts early September and ends late November. The Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association fielded the most number of entries (168). Also with big number of entries are Negros Gamefowl Breeders Association, Batangas Breeders Club and Northern Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association.

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Paragua tackles Super GM

PARAGUA needs to be aggressive against Dreev.

FILPINO GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA takes on Super GM Alexey Dreev of Russia in the second round of the 2005 World Chess Cup in Khanty-Mansyik, West Siberia, Russia, on Wednesday.

They will clash at 6 p.m. in another two-game mini-match.

The 21-year-old Paragua, the most bemedalled Filipino athlete in the 2003 SEA Games with three golds, edged former world junior champion and No. 53 seed Super GM Sergei Movsesian of Slovakia, 1.5-0.5, while Dreev, a mainstay of the Russian Olympic team, routed IM Pascual Charbonneau of Canada, 2-0.

"Aggressive line *ang pipiliin ko laban kay* Dreev, *dagdagan ko pa ng dasal at determinasyon*," said Paragua, seeded 76th, via long distance call.

Four-Time World Chess Federation (FIDE) president Florencio "Pocamps" Campomanes watched the Paragua-Movsesian duel.

Paragua's stint is made possible by Filway Marketings Inc. CEO/ president Hector "Chito" Tagaysay.

Top seed Super GM Vassily Ivanchuk (Elo 2748) of Ukraine led the opening round winners with a 2-1 victory over Aleksandra Siberia of Russia.

Other players who advanced were Etienne Bacrot of France, Levon Aronian of Armenia, Alexander Grischuk of Russia, Boris Gelfand of Israel, Alexei Shirov of Spain, Teimur Radjabov of Azerbaijan, Ruslan Ponomariov of Ukraine, Sergei Tviakov and Ivan Sokolov of the Netherlands.

Asian 3.2a Zonal champion GM Utut Adianto of Indonesia and Asian Individual Championships qualifier GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam,both of whom opted not to play in the 23rd Manila SEA Games like Paragua, bowed to Super GM Giovanni Vescovi of Brazil (0-5-1.5) and Super GM Sergei Rublevsky of Russia (0-5-1.5), respectively. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

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Heat chill Knicks

NEW YORK—DWYANE WADE matched a season-high 33 points and Jason Williams chipped in 18 points and six assists to lead the Miami Heat to a 107-94 home win over the New York Knicks on Monday.

James Posey added 19 points, helped by five three-pointers and Alonzo Mourning scored nine points, grabbed seven rebounds and equalled his own franchise record with nine blocked shots as the Heat snapped a two-game losing skid.

Still without injured center Shaquille O'Neal, the victory was the Heat's second in five games.

Stephon Marbury had 19 points and six assists as the Knicks lost for the fourth time in six games.

Miami took lead midway through the opening quarter and never trailed again, leading 29-20 after the first session and 65-39 going into the halftime intermission.

The Heat maintained their cushion through the third quarter (87-62) and were never challenged as they cruised through the final 12 minutes to a comfortable win.

In Toronto, Dirk Nowitzki bagged a game-high 29 points and Jason Terry added 26, including the game-winning jumper at the buzzer, to earn the Dallas Mavericks a 93-91 win over the struggling Raptors.

Complete results

Dallas 93, Toronto 91; Miami 107, NY Knicks 94; Orlando 87, Boston 83; New Jersey 101, Denver 92, Golden State 99, N.O./ Oklahoma City 83.

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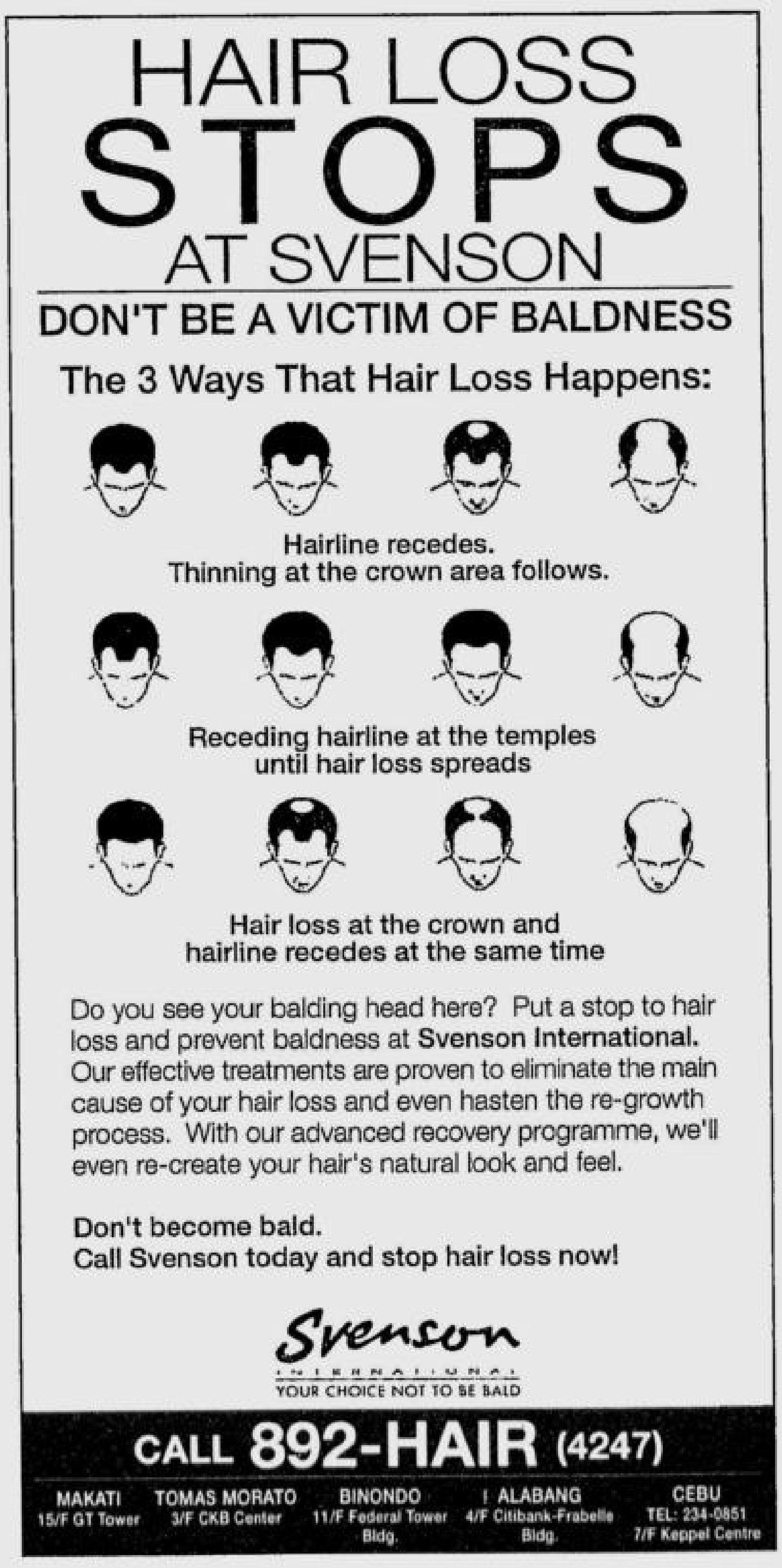
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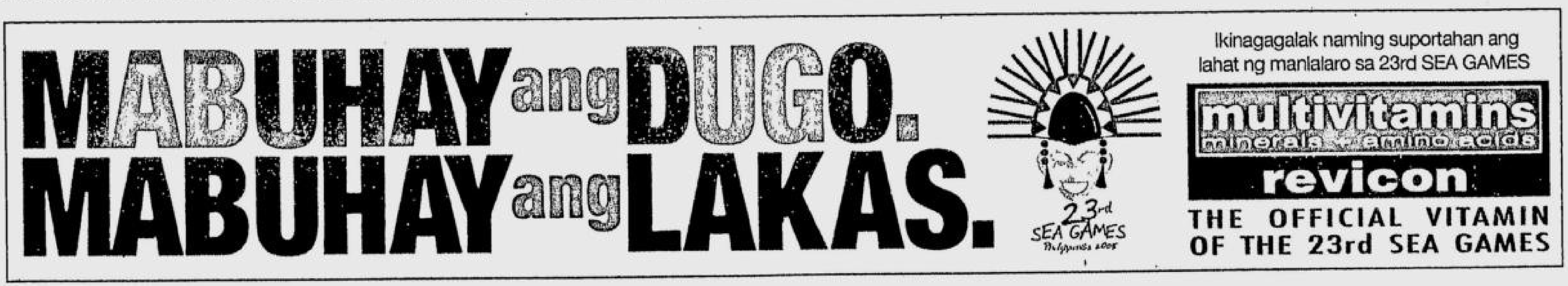
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OPENING TODAY

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

Stars Nathan Lopez, JR Valentin, Soliman Cruz, Bodjie Pascua
Directed by Auraeus Solito

Unconditionally dedicated to his family of petty thieves, the loyalties of teen gay Maximo (Lopez) are tested when he gets infatuated with an incorruptible and idealistic policeman (Valentin). Rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board, the digital movie (later blown up to 35mm film) romped away with a slew of awards—including Special Jury Prize from the Cinemalaya and Golden Zenith from the Montreal World Film Festival. INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David raved: "Deserves all the accolades it has reaped." Next stop for "Maximo": the Sundance, Hong Kong and San Francisco international film festivals.

Hari ng Sablay

Stars Bearwin Meily, Rica Peralejo, Jay-R
Directed by Mac C. Alejandre

TV comic Meily gets his big-screen break in this unabashed rib-tickler. United by fate, a boy (Meily) and a girl (Peralejo) were born on the same day—supposedly when all the planets were aligned. This astronomical happenstance resulted in extreme good fortune for the girl and the exact opposite for the hapless boy. Like all local comedies, it is chock full of spoofs—including Meily in a Darna/security guard costume. Director Alejandre believes Meily is ripe for stardom. "He not only makes me laugh," Alejandre said. "He also gets me involved in his brand of comedy."

The Man

Stars Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy, Miguel Ferrer
Directed by Les Mayfield

Another entry in the canon of "odd couplings" is this action-comedy from the producers of "Rush Hour." Hard-boiled Federal agent (Jackson) must prove his innocence after his corrupt partner is murdered. Ty Burr of the Boston Globe pitied the lead stars. "Professionals," he said, "[who must] wring every last ounce of mustard out of a rancid boardwalk hotdog." Exclusively shown at SM Cinemas.

Just Like Heaven

Stars Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo, Jon Heder
Directed by Mark S. Waters

As a love story, this flick is a tough sell: the heroine is comatose. Allison Benedikt of the Chicago Tribune ranted: "A huge waste of talent [Witherspoon's] and time [the viewers'] . . . a supernatural romantic comedy that's neither romantic, comedic, super or natural." Bob Longino of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution agreed: It's "hackneyed Hollywood material . . . [but the stars], with willpower and finesse, make it intimate, amusing and fetching."

Chicken Little

With the voices of Zach Braff, Garry Marshall, Joan Cusack, Patrick Stewart
Directed by Mark Dindal

A wee fowl causes panic when he mistakes a falling acorn for a piece of the sky. Still, in the end, he saves the world from an alien invasion with a little help from his barnyard buddies. But is this safe kiddie fare at the time of the bird flu virus? Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution thought the film is "Disneyfied with a vengeance." Robert K. Elder of the Chicago Tribune opined, "The results are mixed, though there are signs of promise."

Merry Christmas ("Joyeux Noël")

Stars Diane Kruger, Benno Furmann, Gary Lewis
Directed by Christian Carion

Based on a true story that "history has forgotten," this Yuletide tale pays homage to World War I combatants (from Scotland, Germany and France) who set aside their guns and differences, visited each other in the trenches, shared photographs and memories, played soccer in the snow and celebrated the true meaning of the season. A pre-holiday treat, especially for the men who can't get enough of German beauty Kruger of "National Treasure" fame. From the Cinema Intelligence Agency website: "[It's a] bona fide hit in the 2005 Cannes ... deeply moving ... an elegant film."

High hopes, flat results

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—LEAVING the world of "Harry Potter" for Manhattan's low-rent district, director Chris Columbus has come up with something well shy of magical.

As he showed with the first two "Potter" movies, Columbus has a knack for making big movies that are far less interesting than their source material. With "Rent," Columbus delivers an elaborately constructed yet unimaginative rendering of the Broadway musical smash about lovers and friends coping with poverty, AIDS and addiction.

While the movie takes some of the action to the streets and balconies, alleys and sidewalks, it still feels cloistered, with no strong sense that the story truly has moved off the stage into the real world.

Columbus has the grandest city in the world to shoot in, but far too much of the action is in static locations. The musical numbers suffer for their stagy presentation in this loft apartment or that squatter's flat.

When Columbus does move things outdoors, the settings often look surreally cheap, like back lot copies of New York streets.

The music and lyrics of "Rent" creator Jonathan Larson, who died as the show was going into previews in 1996, are performed with gusto by the cast, most of them veterans of the original Broadway production.

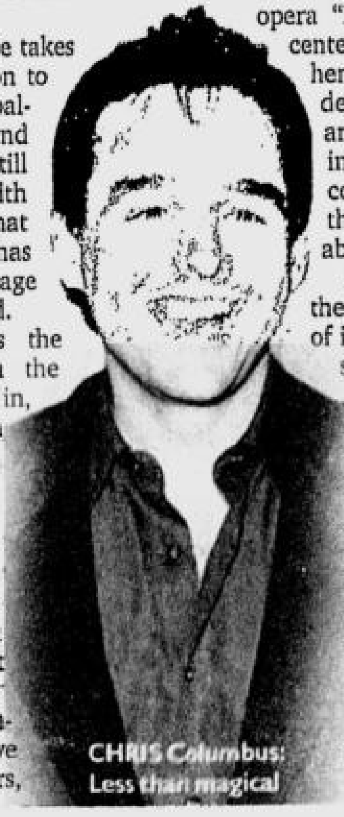
Yet the hard-rock arrangements Columbus chose to back the songs are boring, mechanical instrumentations whose cheesy rhythms are an insult to the passion of the vocals.

A modern update of Puccini's opera "La Boheme, "Rent" centers on a group of bohemian pals and lovers determined to live for art and individuality in a 1980s world of commerce that views their kind as expendable.

Artist Central, where the gang spends much of its time, is the loft of singer-songwriter Roger (Adam Pascal) and filmmaker Mark (Anthony Rapp), who's perpetually shooting a documentary about "La Vie Boheme," their maverick lifestyle.

Ex-junkie Roger, whose girlfriend committed suicide after learning she

HIGH/ A2-2



CHRIS Columbus: Less than magical

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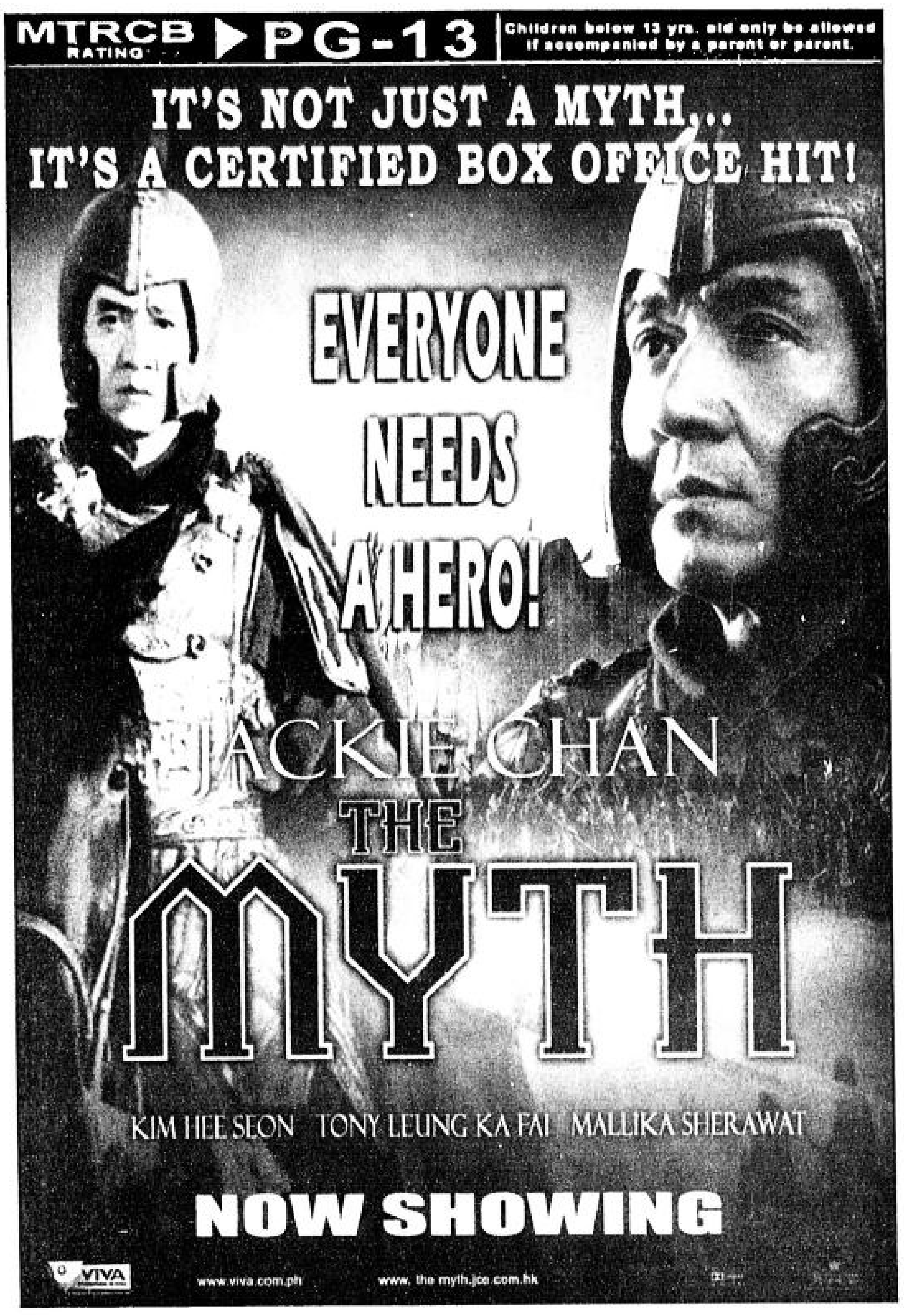
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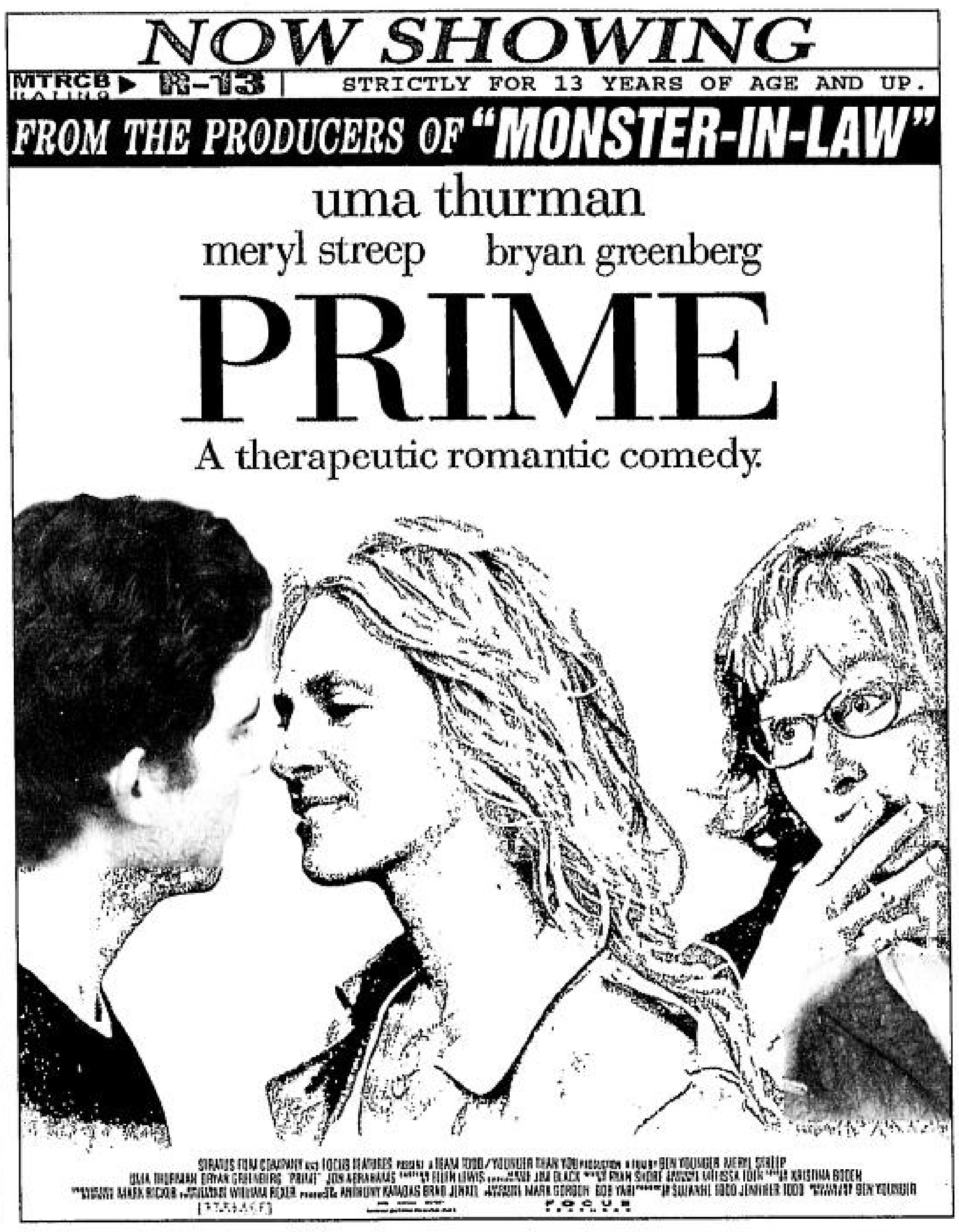
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WILSON Jermaine Heredia

High hopes,

From page A2-1

had AIDS and who has the i new romance with downst Dawson), an exotic dancer HIV-positive.

Mark pines over former g zel), a performance artist v Joanne (Tracie Thoms). Lov Tom Collins (Jesse L. Marti falls for the saintly, HIV-pos mer Angel (Wilson Jermain ner for the role on Broadway the performers in the film).

And what are artists wit Diggs plays Benny, who wed threatening to evict his old c

Simply irritating

The weakest of Larson's s first half; the story and ch warm up to. Musical highlig and-drum bit "Today 4 U" hate duet "Take Me or L protest piece that Menzel's ing.

Columbus, whose career such as "Home Alone" and away from the story's dark brace them. A stirring mem of losing someone to AIDS, the disease and the agony glossed over.

During New Year's revels corks a bottle of champagn tion of bubbly, only to find That sums up the movie: Hig *Germain, AP*

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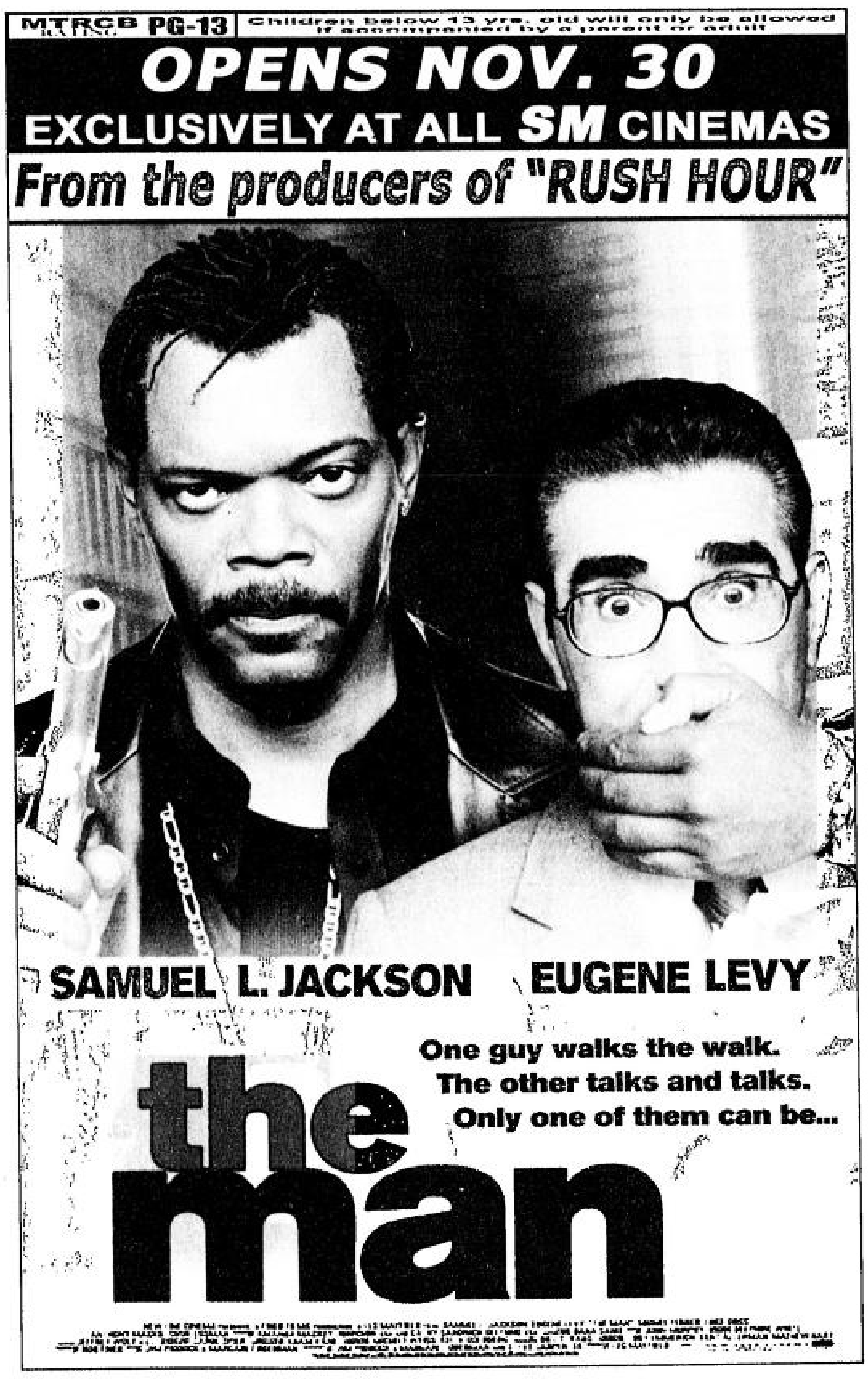
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and Jesse L. Martin in "Rent"

flat results

ıfection himself, is drawn into airs neighbor Mimi (Rosario ıddicted to heroin who's also

rlfriend Maureen (Idina Menho has taken a lesbian lover, also blossoms for their buddy ı), a philosophy teacher who tive, transsexual street drum- Heredia, a Tony Award win- and the show-stopper among

ıout a common enemy? Taye the landlord's daughter is now ıums.

ongs are bunched in the film's ıracters likewise take time to hts are Heredia's lively dance-ınd Menzel and Thoms' love-ave Me." A performance-art Maureen delivers is just irritat-

was built on commercial pap Mrs. Doubtfire," does not shy orners, nor does he fully em-orial service captures the pain yet elsewhere, the ravages of of narcotics withdrawal are

late in the film, Joanne un-, looking braced for an erup-it burble out in a feeble fizz. h hopes, flat results. *David*

Why Peter and Gordon are touring after 37 years

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

SHOW TIME

THERE IS REASON TO HOPE that the Peter and Gordon concert tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum won't be just another oldies act that would ride on past glories.

Even if the '60s duo looks too old to be entertaining a crowd, the fact of the matter is, the show isn't being staged mainly for the money.

After their breakup in 1968, consider that Peter Asher became a successful artist manager and record producer who guided the careers of such stars as James Taylor, Carole King, Linda Ronstadt, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Randy Newman, Dan Fogelberg, Kenny Loggins, Cher, Elvis Costello, 10,000 Maniacs, Morrissey and many others. Until recently, Asher was vice president of Sony Music and is currently president of another artist management outfit.

Good vibes

Gordon Waller had a stint in musical theater as the Pharaoh in the original European production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," which enjoyed a five-year run that culminated in London's West End. Waller also tended to a landscape-gardening business and headed a music publishing company.

So why go onstage together again, in a gig that is being hyped as the launch of a "world reunion tour"?

The idea to perform live once more as Peter and Gordon came when they were asked to participate in a benefit show that Steve Van Zandt of the E Street Band and Paul Shaffer of "The Late Show With Dave Letterman" had organized for Mike Smith, former Dave Clark Five vocalist who was suffering from spinal cord paralysis.

That performance must have sparked a lot of good vibes. Before long, Peter and Gordon were being offered to give it another go as a concert act. The offers were reportedly turned down.

Fond memories

Now, Steve O' Neal of dzRJ has managed to convince them to give it a shot. It helped that the duo had fond memories of the first time they did a series of shows here, also at the Big Dome, in the mid-'60s.

If, for the audience's part, fond memories were the main reason as well to watch them—then so be it.

A cursory run-though of their greatest hits CD would reveal that Peter and Gordon took their Everly Brothers influence several steps further in order to forge a distinct identity as a great harmonizing duo who blended folk, blues and rock in their songs.

"I Go To Pieces," "500 Miles," "True Love Ways," "To Know You Is To Love You" and the rest of the 20 tracks in the CD give a refreshing glimpse of the wide-eyed innocence and optimism of the '60s generation—not to mention the simplicity and warmth that went into the recording process in those early days.

The clincher

But of course the clincher song would always be "A World Without Love"—the tune that Paul McCartney had written but which the Beatles allegedly didn't want to record. Good for Peter and Gordon then, and good for us now to marvel at such unabashedly romantic lyrics: "Please lock me away/And don't allow the day/Here inside/where I hide with my loneliness."

So let the kids enjoy MiG Ayesa at the Fort, also tomorrow night; their parents can get their kicks at the Big Dome.

BEFORE the 1968 breakup

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JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
HARI NG SABLAY	PRIME

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❷ HARI NG SABLAY	❺ THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
❸ CHICKEN LITTLE 11:30 / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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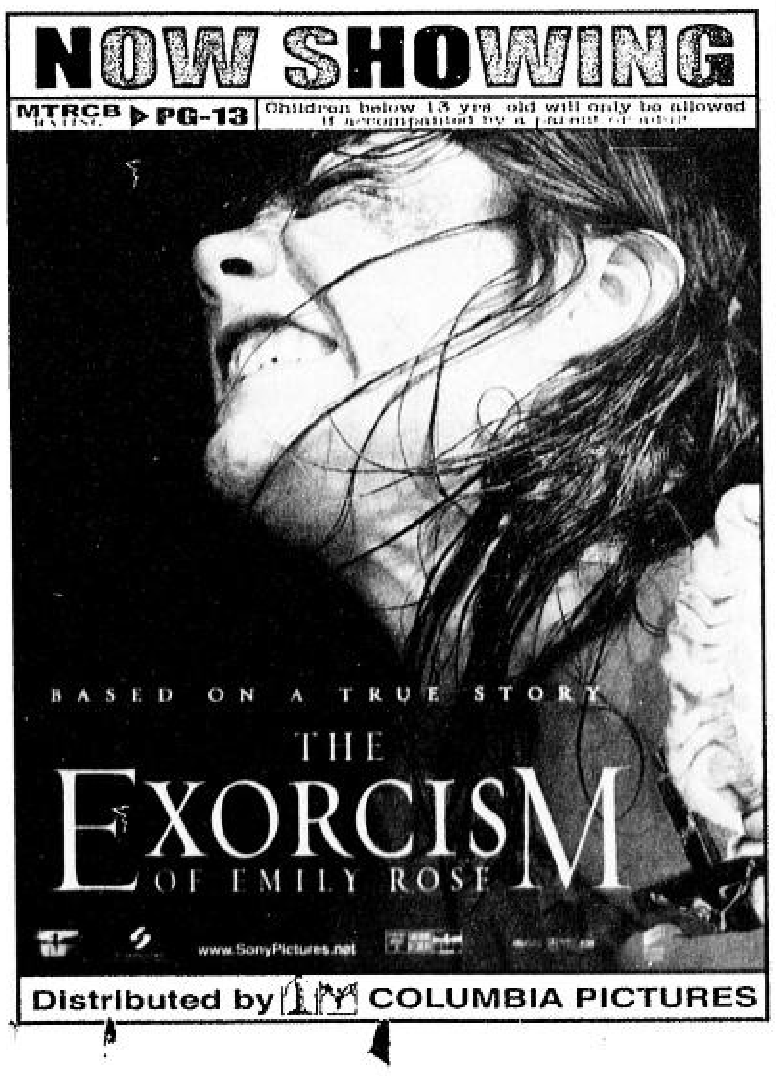

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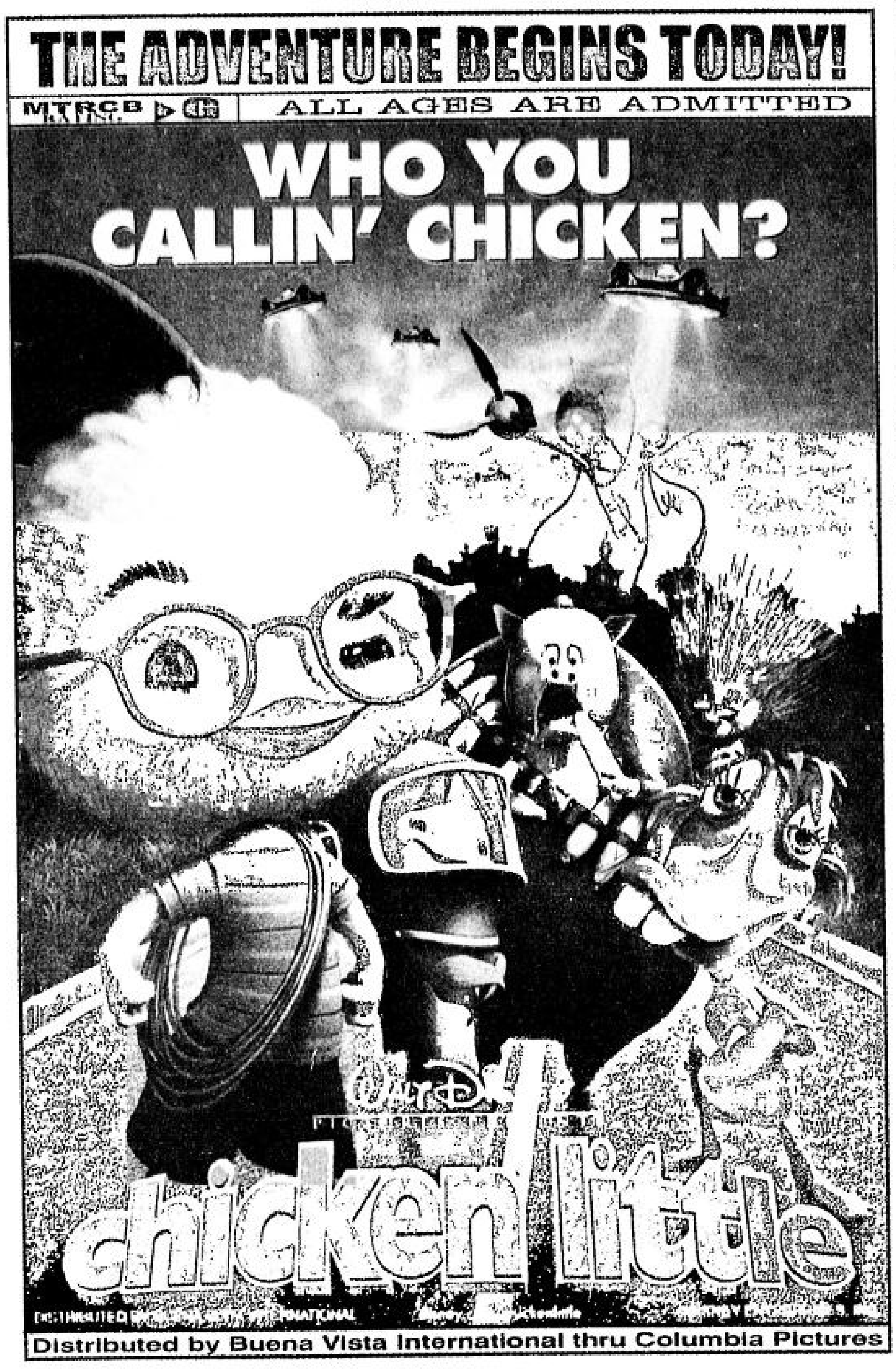
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THE MYTH PG13	CHICKEN LITTLE GP	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP
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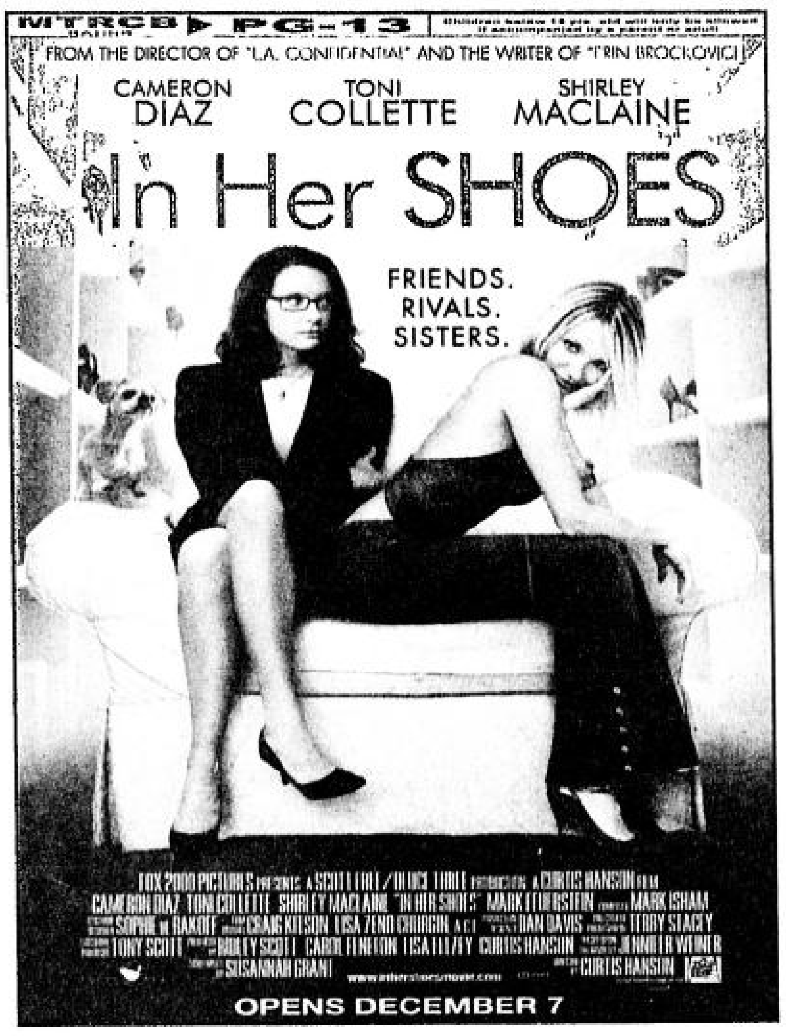
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "L.A. CONFIDENTIAL" AND THE WRITER OF "ERIN BROCKOVICH"
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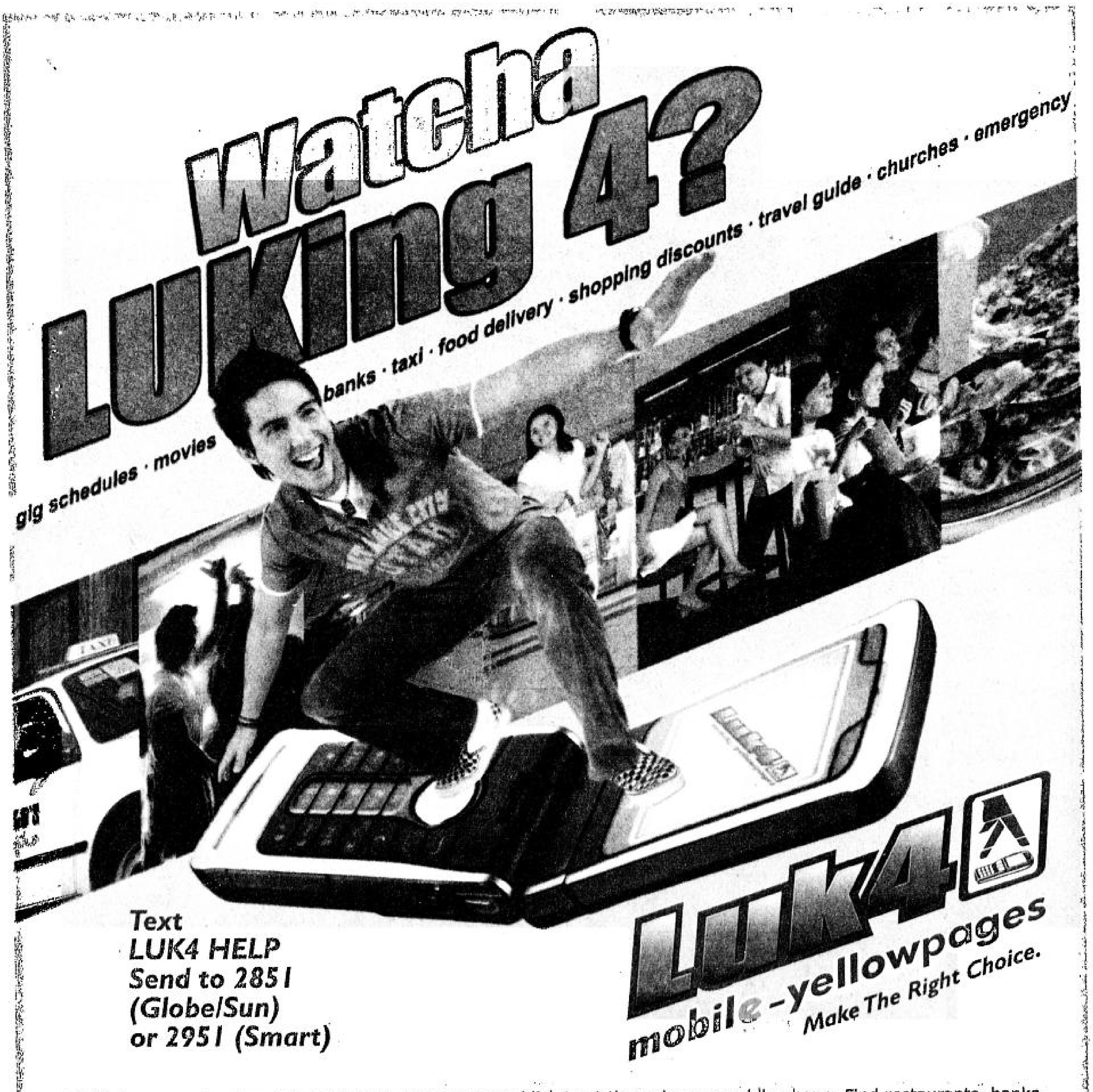
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Warm of applause and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: THERE YOU HAVE IT, OUR CONTESTANTS have shown you what they can do: The next step is to announce the finalists. But, before that, for the last time, let's give all of our contestants a warm of applause.

(He said it, he really said it!)

* * *

Host: How is the fight to preserve our remaining forests succeeding?

Guest: We do our best, but the enemy is powerful. So we still see many people going against the log ban by going against the log.

(Ah, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: What is your favorite sport?

Guest: Chest!

(One man's chess…)

* * *

Host: How has your life changed since you became a star?

Guest: It's different, bur in the important, it's still the same.

Host: What do you mean?

Guest: Because, *mga dati kong kaibigan naman* so far.

(Did something get lost in the translation?)

* * *

Host: What is the result of your makeover of our mother of six for the past hour?

Guest: Let's compare: This is how she looks now—so beautiful and sexy.

And this is a photo of how she was look like before.

(*Ay*, how she was look like before)

* * *

Host: How do you make sure that roasted chicken will be cooked through and through?

Guest: You have to inverse the chicken periodically for complete.

(Inverse? For complete? What are you talking about?)

* * *

Host: If you bake it, how hot does the oven have to be?

Guest: It should be set at 350 degrees foreign height.

(Hey, that's—tall)

* * *

Host: What about fish, what's the best way to prepare it for cooking?

Guest: If the fish is fresh, the best is to season it only with soap and pepper.

(Ay, soap and pepper)

* * *

Host: And, for baking? What are the ingredients?

Guest: To bake this pie, you need one half of baking powder.

(One half—what?)

* * *

Host: What about for cooking a good omelet—any tips?

Guest: Again, very simple. Start with fresh eggs, then beat with pork.

(—And you get—pork omelet)

* * *

Host: Why have you set up this new foundation for artists?

Guest: Not so much for ourselves, but more for the young Filipino artists *na susunod sa mga yakap namin.*

(*Yakap? Yapak? Alin ba talaga, kuya?*)

* * *

Host: What makes your restaurant unique?

Guest: Of course, our famous Pampanga cuisine. Pampangos are known to eat.

(What's so unique about that?)

* * *

Host: Why are you participating in this concert of songs by (name of composer)?

Guest: Because he made nice songs that made people listen to.

(*Ano daw?*)

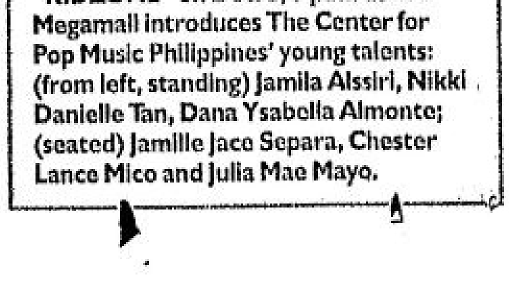
Haribon songwriting tilt

"HIMIG Kalikasan," Haribon Foundation's songwriting competition, is accepting entries until Dec. 15. Songs should adhere to Haribon's mission of protecting the environment. Lyrics can be in any local language, but a translation in English should be provided. Call 4333476.

'War of the Worlds' on video

THE DVD AND VCD of Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," starring Tom Cruise, have been released.

The two-disc special edition offers bonus programming like interviews with Spielberg and Cruise, the creation of the virtual army of Tripods, and production coverage of the movie as it was shot on two dozen different locations.



"KIDZONE" on Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at SM Megamall introduces The Center for Pop Music Philippines' young talents: (from left, standing) Jamila Alsiri, Nikki Danielle Tan, Dana Ysabella Almonte; (seated) Jamille Jace Separa, Chester Lance Mico and Julia Mae Mayo.

ENTERTAINMENT

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This band called Bamboo

ASKED which local band he was looking forward to meeting, Fil-Aussie rocker MIG Ayesa told INQUIRER Entertainment during his visit two weeks ago: "I've heard so much about this band called Bamboo. I'm very interested in hearing them, possibly even interacting with them." Well, MIG and Bamboo are bound to interact, hopefully onstage, during MTV's "Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS" tomorrow at the Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

From sidekick to star

Comedian banishes days of living on dole-outs

Page A3-2

DID YOU KNOW...

ACTRESS **Claudine Barretto** denies she was ever an endorser of Calayan (skin) Surgicenter.

She says: "I've gone there only twice."

Dr. Manny Calayan says: "She signed an agreement with [us] in 2003. Her picture's on [our] website and in our brochures. I have records of her more than 35 visits to our clinic on Tomas Morato, Quezon City."

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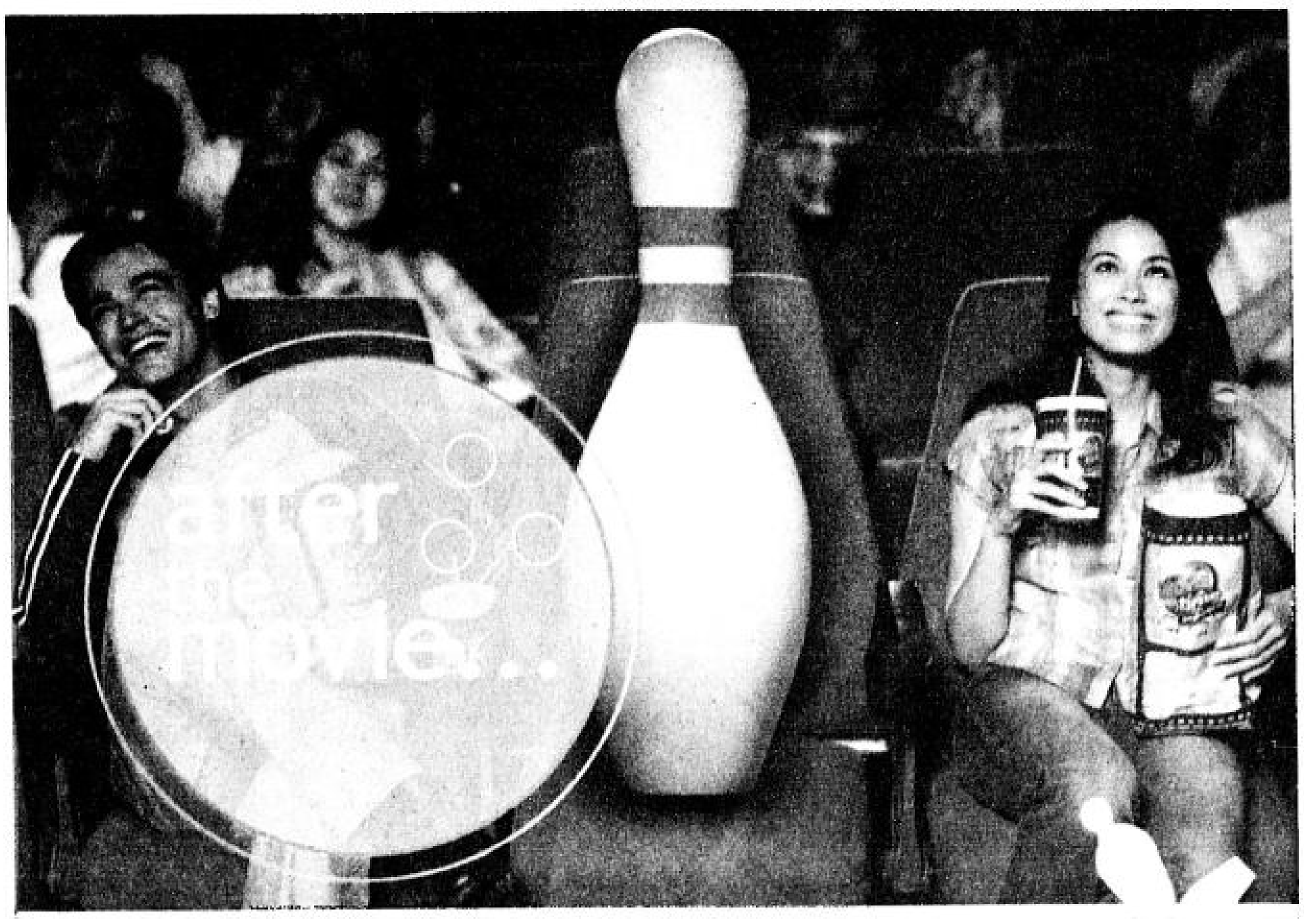
after the movie...

[illegible]

SM BOWLING CENTER
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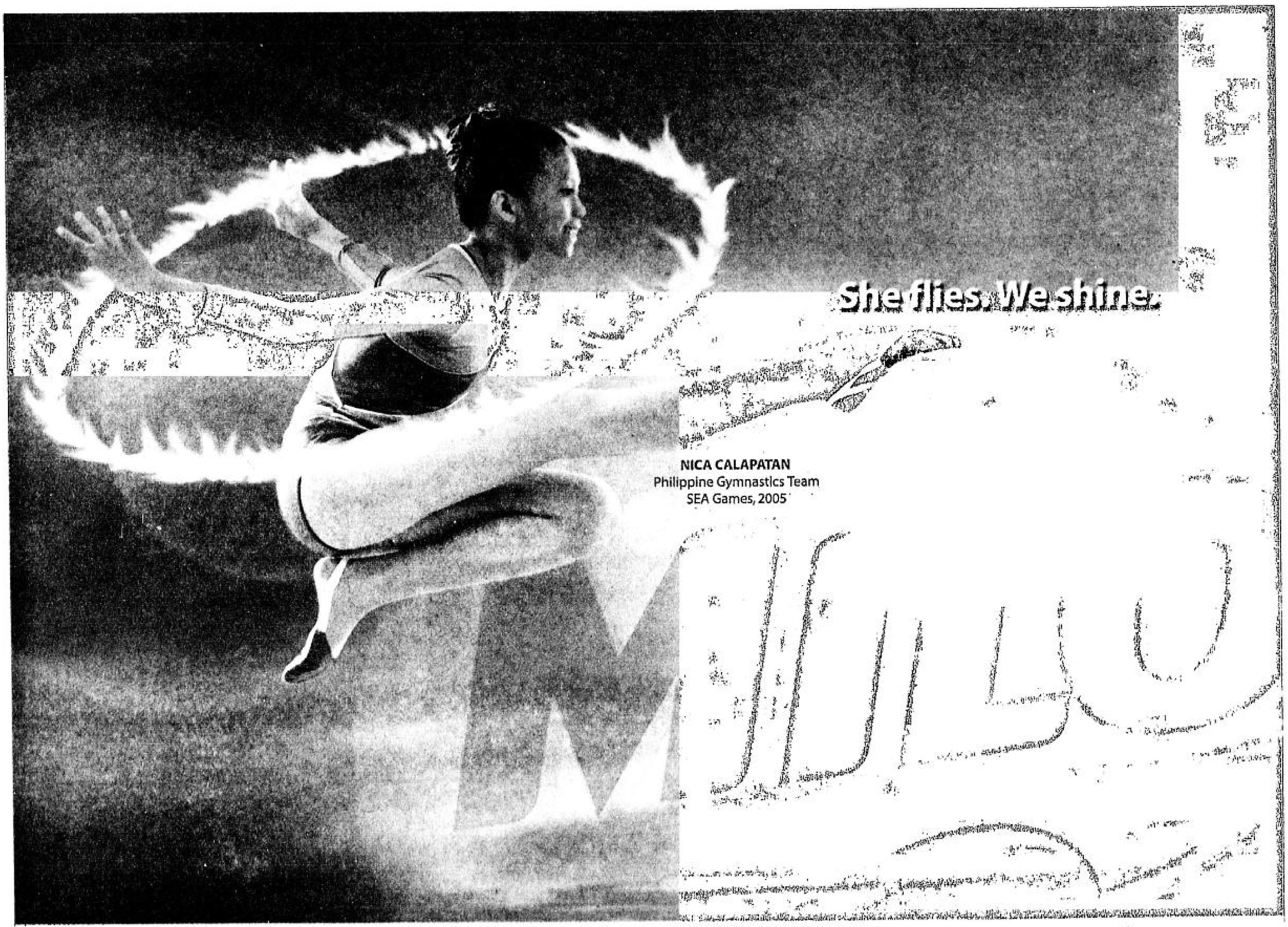
SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY CEBU



Her curious visit to a gymnastics clinic in the summer of 2002 unleashed her competitive spirit. Her undying passion led to hours of vigorous training in the gym. Her unlimited potential propelled her to fame and glory, winning medal after medal in local gymnastics competitions. Her ambition brought her to the international scene, placing 3rd in the Southeast Asian Games Confederation held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her admirable patriotism inspired her to work even harder, finally making it to the Philippine team that will compete in the 23rd SEA Games at the young age of 12. NICA. Just one of the 812 champions in the biggest delegation ever in the SEA Games. Another reason why 85 million of us shine. **One Team. One Nation. Go Philippines!**

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One guy thinks the world... [illegible]

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Directed by Les Mayfield
From the creators of "Rush Hour" comes another explosive action comedy film! Tough Federal agent Derrick Vann (Samuel Jackson) is forced to team up with dental supply salesman Andy Fiddler (Eugene Levy) to recover a pile of stolen weapons Van is suspected of stealing. Will this unlikely duo solve the crime in time or will Vann go down for the crime?
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9 THE MYTH
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11 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12 FLIGHTPLAN

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2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 APRIL SNOW
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 PRIME
3 APRIL SNOW
4 THE MAN
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
11 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE MAN
5 THE MYTH
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 PAPARAZZI
10 PRIME

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MAN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

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1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MYTH
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 APRIL SNOW
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

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1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 APRIL SNOW
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 DOMINO
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

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Sidekick, now star

By Nini Valera

COMEDIAN BEARWIN MEILY IS out to conquer the big screen with magic.

"People who watch my movie, 'Hari ng Sablay,' will get the chance to interact with me in a magical moment," said Bearwin, an enthusiast of street magic and a fan of David Blaine's.

Short of revealing details, Bearwin told a handful of writers during a press conference that he would introduce the movie by playing a trick on the audience.

"Whether here [in Metro Manila] or in provincial theaters, I will involve the audience in magic," he promised.

To illustrate, Bearwin whipped out a deck of cards and asked the writers to each pick out a card. He correctly guessed every card chosen. He even performed variations of the trick, which he said he learned from books and videos on magic.

Trade secrets

"In a pinch, I could always perform tricks during parties," he jested. Actually, the former host of "Naks"—a comedy magic show that is now off the air—takes the craft seriously.

"Every magician has his secrets," he said. "I won't reveal mine." He did reveal, however, that hard work is a big part of his magic as a comic.

Though he is now playing the lead role in the Regal Films movie, Bearwin said he wouldn't mind doing small parts again. "These are tough times," he explained. "I'd be grateful for whatever comes my way. I wouldn't mind playing a ... sidekick."

In fact, Bearwin was once the sidekick of actor John Estrada. "He would give me P200 a day," the comedian said, adding that John also helped him break into television.

Now, Bearwin said, not entirely in jest, he is breaking his back to make a mark on the big screen.

Now on Disc

Batman, Charlie and a magic train

THREE kiddie-perfect movies are now on DVD and VCD from Warner Home Video.

"Batman Begins," the $200-million box office smash hit directed by Christopher Nolan, is now available in a single disc version and a two-disc deluxe edition loaded with extras and an exclusive collectible comic book.

The "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" two-disc deluxe edition throws in scrumptious features and limited-edition trading cards.

"The Polar Express" two-disc special edition carries a trainload of bonuses, too, like special effects featurettes, a new song and game challenges.

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8 THE MYTH
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 PRIME

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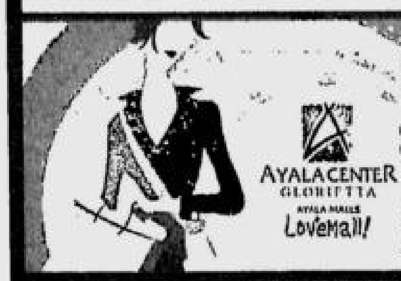

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CHICKEN LITTLE	2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 THE MYTH	6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	7 PRIME
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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
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COCKTALES /B2

MetroPac, French firm eye new projects /B3

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Nov. inflation seen at 6.7-7.1%

Further hike in prices expected with VAT rate increase in 2006

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority said the inflation rate in November would likely reach between 6.7 percent and 7.1 percent as the high cost of oil continued to put pressure on prices of food and other basic commodities.

This is higher than the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' 6.4-6.9 percent inflation rate projection for the month.

Inflation was 7 percent in the year through October.

The lower end of Neda's projection for November took into consideration the slight decline in oil prices during the month.

The government conceded months ago that its original inflation target of 5 percent to 6 percent for 2005 was already unrealistic, given the substantial increases in oil prices this year. The government, when it set this target, assumed that the sharp rise in oil prices in 2004 would no longer be experienced this year.

The Neda is expecting the full-year inflation rate to come in at between 7.7 percent and 7.9 percent.

"The prices of food such as *bangus*, rice, coffee, and canned fish, were higher due to the increases in the cost of petroleum," Dennis Arroyo, director of the Neda's policy and planning staff, said in a press conference yesterday.

Arroyo said the impact of the expanded value-added tax, which was implemented on Nov. 1, would already be reflected on the November inflation figure.

The new VAT law expanded the coverage of the tax to include products and services previously exempted, such as oil and electricity.

It also provides for an increase in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting February next year.

Consumer prices are expected to further increase next year due to this, although the Department of Finance said the increase would be lower than 10 percent because of the measures implemented to mitigate the impact of the tax law.

NOV./B7

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Ecozones in the Philippines

As of November 2005

LUZON
Public 3
Private 32
IT 1
Tourism 1

NCR
Private 18
IT 5

VISAYAS
Public 1
Private 7
IT 4

MINDANAO
Private 4
IT 1

Source: Philippine Economic Zone Authority

PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) monitors 243 ecozones all over the country. Over a thousand firms are located within the 77 operational ecozones. More than half of the operational ecozones are private and 24 are IT parks and buildings. In 2004, PEZA received P46.14 billion worth of investments while export receipts reached US$30.92 billion.

Chona Galang, **PDI Research**

T-bill rates fall across the board for the 4th week

TREASURY BILL RATES FELL ACROSS the board for the fourth straight week yesterday, as the expected drop in the supply of government securities next month and the high level of liquidity in the market prompted banks to scramble for the debt paper.

The bellwether 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing loans, further slid to 5.146 percent, or 7.5 basis points lower than last week's.

The three-month debt instrument was more than three times over-subscribed, with tenders reaching P3.525 billion as against the government's offering of only P1 billion.

"The market factored in the cancellation of auctions in December. The result was also brought about by the positive sentiment over the current fiscal position and the liquidity in the market at the moment," National Treasurer Omar Cruz told reporters after the auctions.

The 182-day T-bill rate fell by 32.4 basis points to 7.206 percent. The six-month paper government security attracted P7.825 billion worth of bids, or about five times higher than the P1.5-billion offering.

The 364-day T-bill fetched a rate of 7.969 percent, reflecting a sharp 62.5-basis-point drop from its rate last week. Tenders for the one-year debt instrument hit P11.165 billion, much more than the government's P2-billion debt offering.

Cruz said the Bureau of Treasury was studying the possibility of canceling two scheduled T-bill auctions for December given the government's healthy cash position.

The Department of Finance earlier said the government's budget deficit for the first 10 months of the year stood at only P115.5 billion, or way below the P156-billion ceiling set for the period. The lower-than-target deficit, which was brought about by tight spending and non-tax revenue collection that was higher than programmed, boosted market confidence. *Michelle V. Remo*

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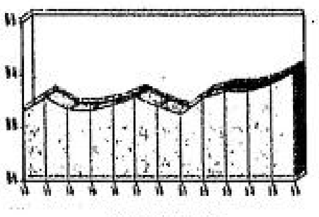


NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.945 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 29, 2005

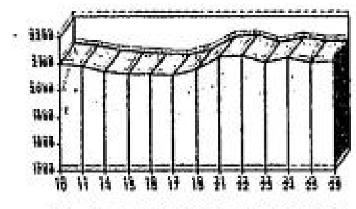
¥ 119.08 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 29, 2005

GOLD: $495.10-495.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 25, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end flat on low GDP growth report

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED FLAT following disappointing third quarter growth figures, dealers said.

They said the market might be taking a breather after a three-day weekend and hitting eight-month highs last week. The markets were closed on Monday for a public holiday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 1.26 points at 2,107.36, having trading in a very narrow range of 2,102.70 to 2,109.79 as the market digested the growth data. Turnover was 1.53 million shares worth P932 million. The broader all-shares index gained one point to 1,275.42.

Gainers led losers 40 to 29, with 50 stocks unchanged.

The economy expanded 4.1 percent in the third quarter of the year, well below market expectations due to the effects of high oil

SHARES/B7

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Car assembly firms buck proposed bio-fuels law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL VEHICLE ASSEMBLERS HAVE OPPOSED a Senate bill proposing the mandatory use of bio-fuels in all vehicles, saying consumers should be given options.

But at the same time, members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. said firms should be given perks if the proposal becomes law.

In a letter to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Campi president Elizabeth H. Lee said petroleum products with additives where considered "alternative fuels", which means consumers must have the choice on whether to use them.

Santiago chairs the Senate committee on energy, which is handling Senate Bill No. 2007 on the required use of gasoline mixed with ethanol and of diesel mixed with coconut methyl ester on all motor vehicles.

Calls for the promotion of bio-fuels gained support amid the price shock in the international crude oil market in the past months.

Lee said that generally, vehicles with carburetors are not compatible with bio-fuels, while vehicles equipped with fuel injection systems could use them.

"The bio-fuel specifications should be consistent with the Worldwide Fuel Charter," Lee said. "(The current Charter provides that) ethanol blends (with gasoline) should be limited to a maximum mixture of 10 percent while bio-diesel should contain 5-percent CME at most."

The Campi chief added that industry players should be given a lead time of two years from the effectivity of such a law before the mandate was applied.

She said it would take that long to develop compliant vehicles from conceptualization to commercial release.

Arrovo and other tales

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A PRIVATE BANKING CLIENT OF A MAJOR local bank received unexpected holiday cheer yesterday morning when the crisp P5,000 bundle she had just withdrawn from the bank's head office turned out to be all "Arrovo" bills.

If the Bangko Sentral's initial estimate that only "less than P100,000" of the misspelled P100 bills had been released to the banking system is correct, then 5 percent of the collectible legal tender has been cornered by one lucky individual.

Understandably, the beet-red Bangko Sentral is trying to put a positive twist to the otherwise disastrous debut of the first bills bearing the name of the new governor, who incidentally is not only an economist but a GMA *kabalen* as well.

The last time that such typographical/proofreading lapse happened was in the early '80s, with no less than culture and literary patron Jaime Laya presiding over the monetary authority; "pithecopaga jefferyi," the Latin name of the Philippine monkey-eating eagle adorning the 50-centavo coin, became "pithecobaga jefferyi."

But, unlike today, the defective coins were never withdrawn from circulation, thus losing their hoped-for rarity value, with millions of them flooding the market.

According to the grapevine, the in-house investigation is now focusing on the possibility that the P100 bill error stemmed with the name of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo having to be retyped to fit a re-sized printing plate.

The error was apparently discovered only after Bangko Sentral employees began withdrawing their salaries from the ATM machines inside the bank complex. (Tip: If you cannot get crisp bills from your depository banks for holiday giveaways, the ATM machines inside the Bangko Sentral always carry the "malutong" money. Failing that, you can always try the Bangko Sentral's Cash Department, which is open to the walk-in public.)

Money-go-round

- ISRAELI tycoon Lev Leviev has acquired a 40-percent stake in a six-IT building complex controlled by taipan Andrew Gotianun in Filinvest Alabang.
- CEBU Pacific will considering flying to the United States once it corners at least half of the domestic passenger market. The Gokongwei airline already accounts for 38 percent of the market since its launching in 1996.
- LIKE Universal Robina's C2 green tea drink, Wrigley's Orbit sugar-free chewing gum has also been flying off supermarket and grocery shelves. Unfortunately, unlike its older, sugar-laden siblings that are made in its Antipolo plant, Wrigley's imports Orbit all the way from China.

Heard through the grapevine

MARK Jimenez was forced to spend a few more weeks in the US penitentiary after he was found to have distributed "farewell gifts" to prison guards as well as fellow inmates.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Gov't approves transmission line projects in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT HAS approved a P2-billion worth of power transmission projects in Mindanao, said Presidential Assistant for Mindanao and Mindanao Economic Development Council chair Jesus Dureza.

Dureza said recently that Malacañang has endorsed the Sangali-Pitogo, Zamboanga City and General Santos-Tacurong Transmission Line Projects that were among the major items under the government's infrastructure development projects.

The two projects were proposed for funding under the Miyazawa Fund, named after former Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who unveiled the $30-billion aid initiative in 1998 to help Japan's Asian neighbors that were hit hard by the economic downturn that began in mid-1997.

Of the amount, $1.4 billion were allocated for the Philippines.

Dureza said the Sangali-Pitogo 138 kV Transmission Line Project, when completed, will meet Zamboanga City's load requirement that is projected to increase by 6.3 percent a year until 2015.

The project is also designed for future connection of the island-province of Basilan to the Mindanao grid.

Dureza said the P1.087-billion General Santos-Tacurong 138 kV Transmission Line Project will replace the existing lines.

This project is expected to ensure system stability and reliability of power supply as well as higher power transfer capacity between substations, as well as access to future base load plants in General Santos City and Sultan Kudarat through the Mindanao grid.

The two projects were proposed by the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) in 1998, but have gone through re-evaluation following the adoption of austerity measures among government agencies and corporations. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Telof offers pre-paid cards

DAVAO CITY—THE STATE-RUN TELECOMmunications Office (Telof) has joined the prepaid bandwagon after partnering with a private company to launch its own international and local text cards.

Telof's prepaid text card is compatible with mobile phones equipped with subscriber identification module (SIM) cards provided by any of the four mobile phone companies.

"As far as Telof is concerned, the use of prepaid card is very efficient. We do away with the problem of collection," Commissioner Elberto Emphasis, chief of the Telecommunications Office, told the INQUIRER.

He said the government has taken the lead in partnering with the private sector, in this case, the Bayani Card Inc., to provide the underserved market of Filipinos, who are always looking for alternative and accessible means of communication.

Emphasis said the partnership with Bayani Card Inc. for another prepaid service, the TELOFone call card, will also help market the telephone lines of the government.

"We have about 22,000 lines available, mostly in Visayas and Mindanao," he said.

The TELOFone prepaid call card is for Telof landline subscribers who want to limit their outbound calls.

Emphasis said for as low as P150 a month, subscribers can use their landline phones to call any phone line in the country at a flat fee of P5 a minute.

The card sells for P100, equivalent to a 20-minute long distance domestic calls.

He said a version of the TELOFone, which would enable families of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to call their love ones abroad, would soon be launched.

With the TELOFone International Prepaid card, a call abroad would cost US$0.10 a minute, about US$0.30 less than what other providers charge.

Emphasis said the government would continue to look for other ways to serve the rural population. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Lower LPG prices forecast for Christmas season

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTERNATIONAL contract price of liquefied petroleum gas is expected to slide by an equivalent of P1 per kilogram in December, providing an early Christmas gift to the country's heavily burdened consumers.

Industry leader Petron Corp., which projected a softening of international prices as early as the second week of November, said LPG prices could still go down by P1 per kilogram before the year ends as contract prices could ease further.

Counter cyclical

While oil firms had been reducing the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene since the start of the month, they had been hiking LPG prices due to the spike in November international contract prices.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international prices of LPG had spiked to $549 per metric ton (MT) this month, rising $30 from October's price of $519 per MT.

Prices rose by close to $80 per MT in October from the September price of $440.20 per MT, the highest single month-on-month increase since 1999.

According to Petron, however, this trend would not be sustained until December.

Price cuts

In anticipation of the softening of international prices, Petron's rival Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. slashed prices of its Shellane brand LPG by P1 per kilogram over the weekend.

Petron did not follow its competitor's move as it still had some leeway to maintain its prices at current levels.

The oil firm had refrained from increasing LPG prices over the past weeks after jacking up its Gasul brand LPG prices by P1 a kilogram last Nov. 9.

Since then, competitors Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. have increased their cooking gas prices by P1 a kilogram.

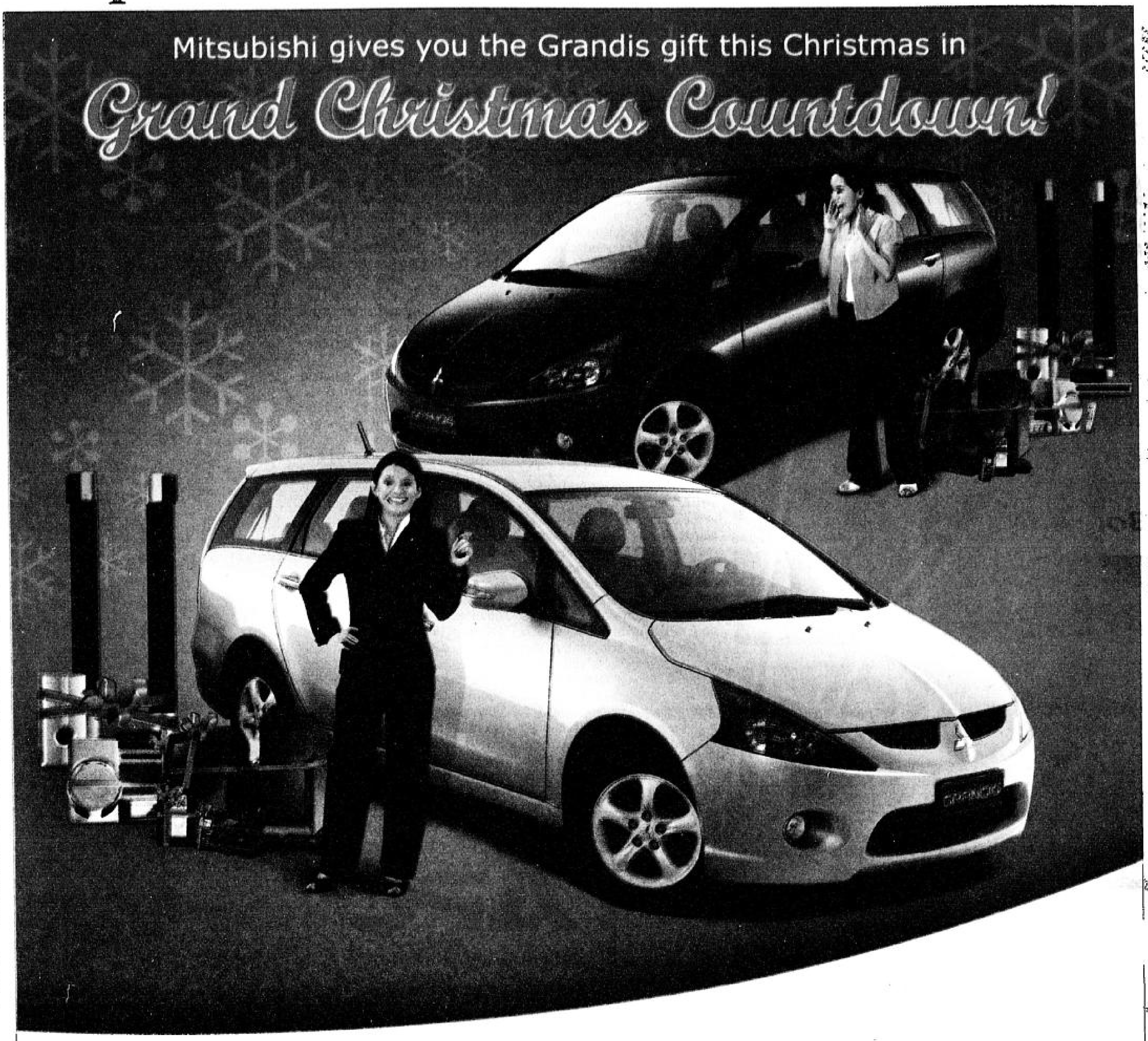
Shell had hiked prices by P1.50 per kilogram. Following its recent price rollback, however, the company's net price hike had been cut to only 50 centavos per liter.

Moderating effect

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said in a statement that Petron hoped to moderate the LPG prices of its competitors at the retail level with its decision not to hike prices at a time when all other oil firms were raising their prices.

"In a deregulated environment, market competition ultimately dictates LPG retail prices," she said yesterday.

According to industry data, Petron has the biggest share of the LPG market with 27 percent.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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Jollibee renews push for India

Expansion strategy aimed at boosting '06 earnings

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., THE country's largest quick service food chain, is scouting for fast food brand acquisitions in India, Asia's third biggest economy.

Jollibee chair and president Tony Tan Caktiong said his firm was scouting for a local brand in key cities in the Asian subcontinent.

"We want to be in India. We started exploring, *pero wala pa* (there is nothing yet)," Tan Caktiong said. "Probably [it will be] a local brand in India, or a buy-in. We prefer a majority [acquisition] if possible, in the fast food segment."

The Jollibee chief made his comments following the 130th anniversary celebration of HSBC yesterday at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, where he was honored as one of the country's business pioneers.

Tan Caktiong also said Jollibee had temporarily stopped talks with New Delhi family restaurant Nirula's since the latter was in serious talks with another investor.

"The last we heard is that they were in serious talks with somebody else," Tan Caktiong said. "Let's see how they progress. We temporarily stopped talking to them."

Nirula's was established in 1934 and is now a chain of business hotels, waiter service restaurants, family-style restaurants, ice cream parlors, pastry shops and food processing plants in India. The chain caters to over 50,000 guests every day.

Tan Caktiong also said that Jollibee's oriental fast food chain ChowKing Foods Corp. is exploring the Indian market separately for expansion.

"It is Jollibee that is going to buy [a company in India]," he added. "At one time we were exploring India for ChowKing. They are still looking at that angle. We were told that the Indian market prefers Chinese food when they eat out."

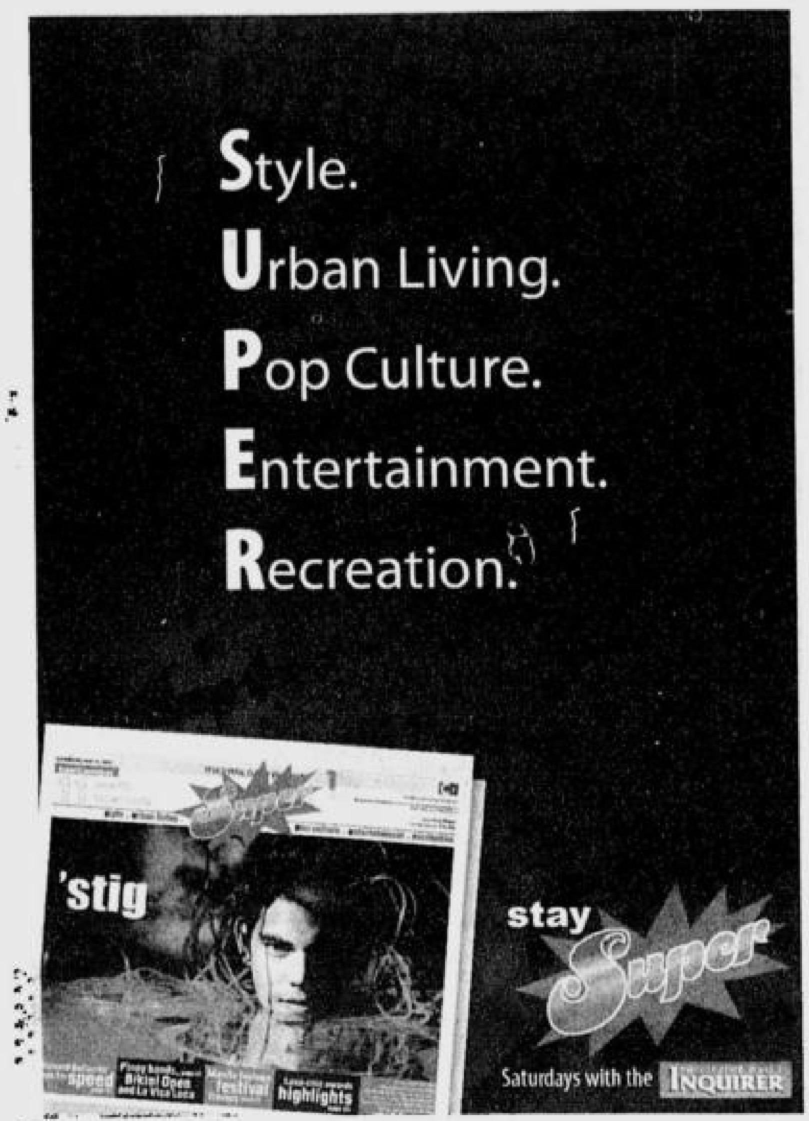
Aside from its planned Indian venture, Jollibee will further expand its store network by 100 outlets across all of its brands starting next year.

Jollibee recently acquired specialty cakes chain Red Ribbon Bakeshop Inc. which will add to its string of 1,092 stores in the Philippines and 131 stores abroad, which are mostly in China through Yonghe King.

Tan Caktiong said the Jollibee Group is studying putting up Red Ribbon outlets in New Jersey and other cities on the East and West Coasts in the US that are densely populated with Filipino expatriates.

Despite a soft third quarter, the addition of Red Ribbon in the Jollibee line, as well as expected stronger consumer spending during the Christmas holidays, are seen pulling up Jollibee's net income results during the fourth quarter.

Tan Caktiong, however, did not give specific projections.



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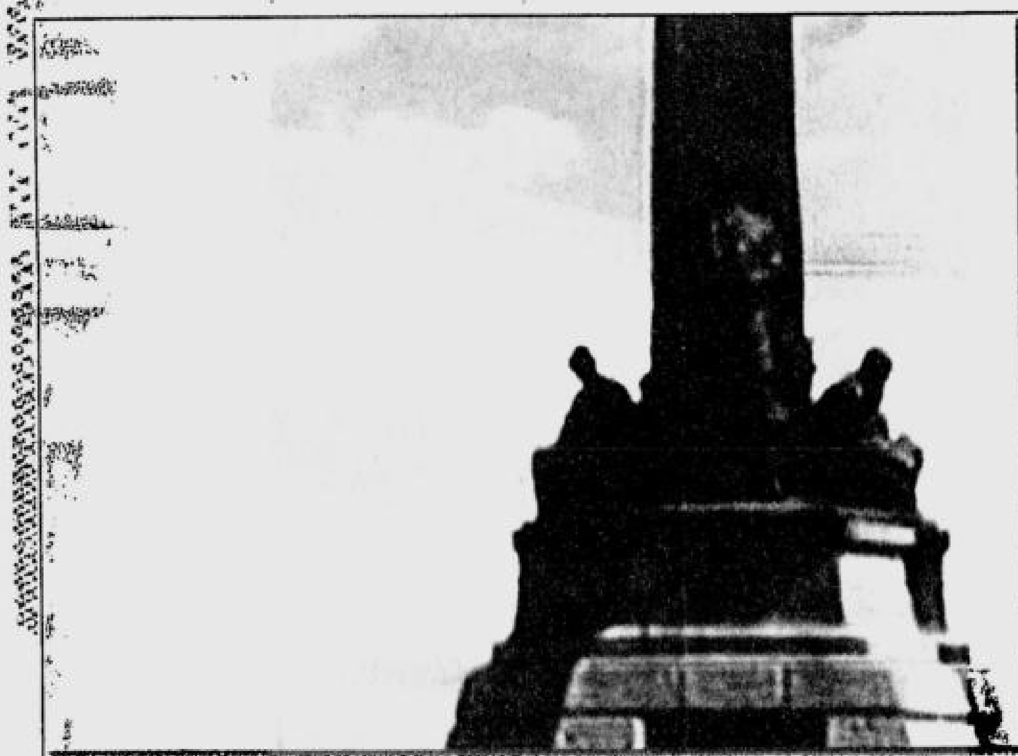

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Nov. 29, 2005)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	34.5	34	34	185,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	59	788,000
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	660
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	80,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	55	54.5	55	20,700
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21	21	62,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32	31	31.5	388,600
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	40,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14.75	14	14.75	65,500
Security Bank Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	137,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	14,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24.5	25.5	24.5	25.5	600
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3100	3100	3100	300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2150	2150	2140	2145	1,110
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	22,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.92	2,700,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	770	760	770	9,440
Ipeople Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.45	285,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.35	1,186,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1735	1750	1735	1745	136,240
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	124,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	15	14.25	15	29,700
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.25	23	23.25	3,537,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,999,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.2	766,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.97	650,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	16,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	54,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.68	1,720,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	1,972,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	23,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.68	0.64	0.68	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	418,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	40.5	39.5	40	593,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.8	308,000
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	230,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	207,000
San Miguel Corp. B	90	90	88.5	88.5	27,100
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	200
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	360,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	165,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	337.5	342.5	337.5	342.5	464,150
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	108,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	44,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.87	0.84	0.87	1,230,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	17,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	762,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.175	2,000,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,280,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3,157,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.029	0.026	0.029	21,400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	390,300
House of Investments Inc.	0.97	1.02	0.97	1	560,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	2,680,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	323,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	12,490,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	437,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	212,000
SM Investments Corp.	249	249	245	247	112,040
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.38	170,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	14,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,670,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.42	1,310,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	76,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	220,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Bella Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	2,502,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	25	26	25	26	5,500
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	609,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	3,300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	325,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.7	4,477,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	1,473,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,170,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.215	1,640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	175,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	230,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	900,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	5,006,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc B	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	170,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	212,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	1,766,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	4,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	358,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	8,160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	14,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	84,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	52,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	633,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.26	1.34	1.26	1.32	6,888,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.5	1.64	1.5	1.64	12,512,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	28.5	27	28	1,589,400
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.145	11,870,000

DISCLOSURES

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. shareholders on record as of Dec. 13 are entitled to a 7.5-percent cash dividend or P0.75 per share payable on Dec. 21.

***

JARDINE Davies Inc. will hold its annual shareholders' meeting on Dec. 28, 10 a.m. at the JDI Lounge on the 4th floor of the Jardine Davies Building, 222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City. All shareholders on record as of Nov. 28 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting.

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The annual shareholders' meeting of the **Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp.** (PT&T) scheduled for Jan. 6, 2006 has been reset to July 28, 2006.

***

Pascual M. Garcia III, president of the **Philippine Savings Bank**, acquired 100 common shares at P34 per share on Nov. 25. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 29, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.843953	1.000000	54.2600
Japan	Yen	0.007105	0.008419	0.4568
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460545	1.730600	93.9024
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108845	0.128971	6.9980
Switzerland	Franc	0.646509	0.766049	41.5658
Canada	Dollar	0.722068	0.855578	46.4237
Singapore	Dollar	0.499262	0.591576	32.0989
Australia	Dollar	0.622247	0.737300	40.0059
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.239137	2.653153	143.9601
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225036	0.266645	14.4682
Brunei	Dollar	0.497790	0.589831	32.0042
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020484	0.024272	1.3170
UAE	Dirham	0.229785	0.272272	14.7735
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.184900	64.2927
Argentina	Peso	0.281552	0.333611	18.1017
Brazil	Real	0.382832	0.453618	24.6133
Denmark	Kroner	0.134112	0.158909	8.6224
India	Rupee	0.018407	0.021810	1.1834
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223327	0.264620	14.3583
Mexico	New Peso	0.079973	0.094760	5.1417
New Zealand	Dollar	0.590507	0.699692	37.9653
Norway	Kroner	0.126630	0.150044	8.1414
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014132	0.016745	0.9086
South Africa	Rand	0.130148	0.154212	8.3675
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.000962	0.0522
Sweden	Kroner	0.105888	0.125467	6.8078
Syria	Pound	0.016258	0.019264	1.0453
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025151	0.029801	1.6170
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000393	0.000466	0.0253

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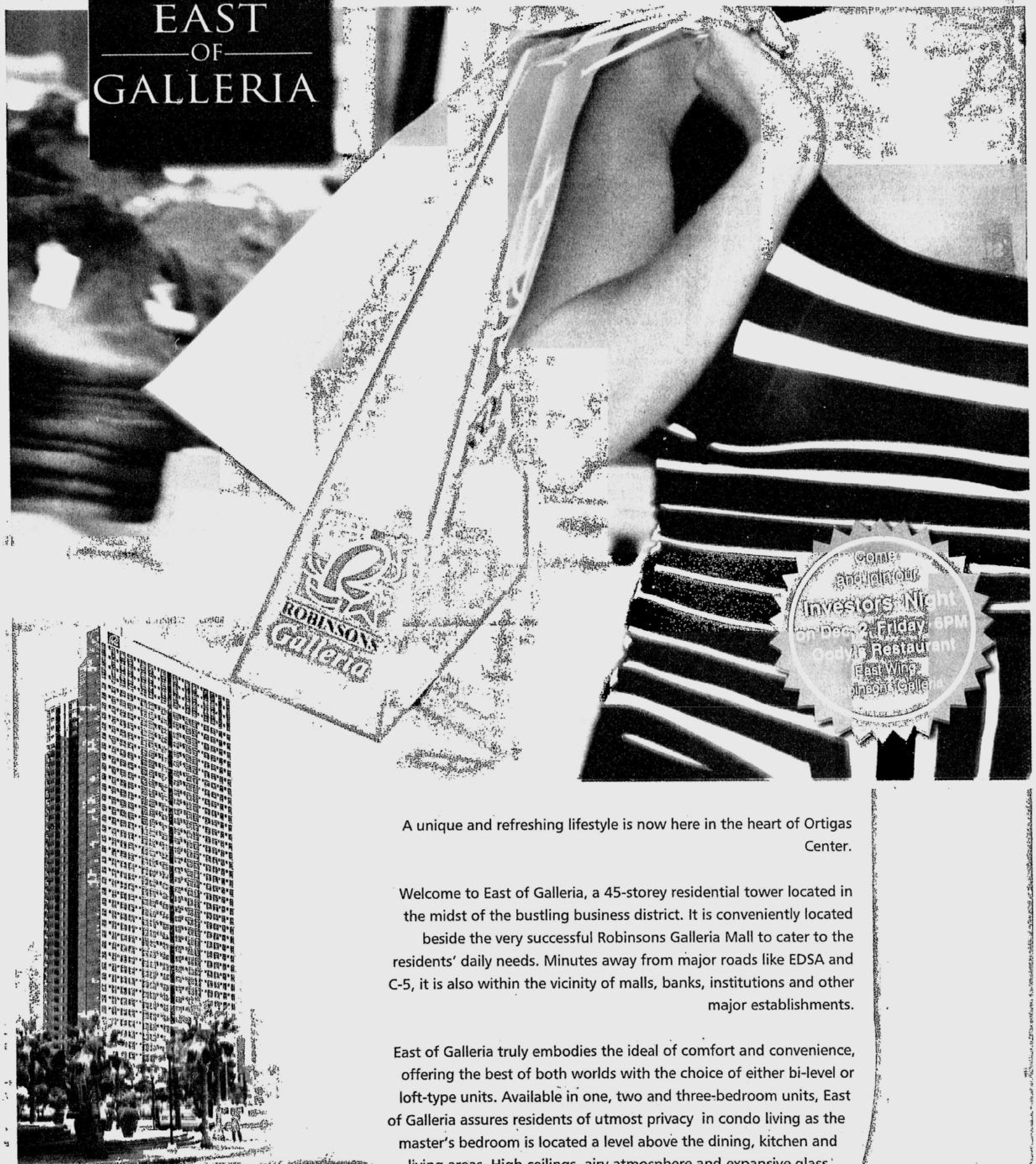
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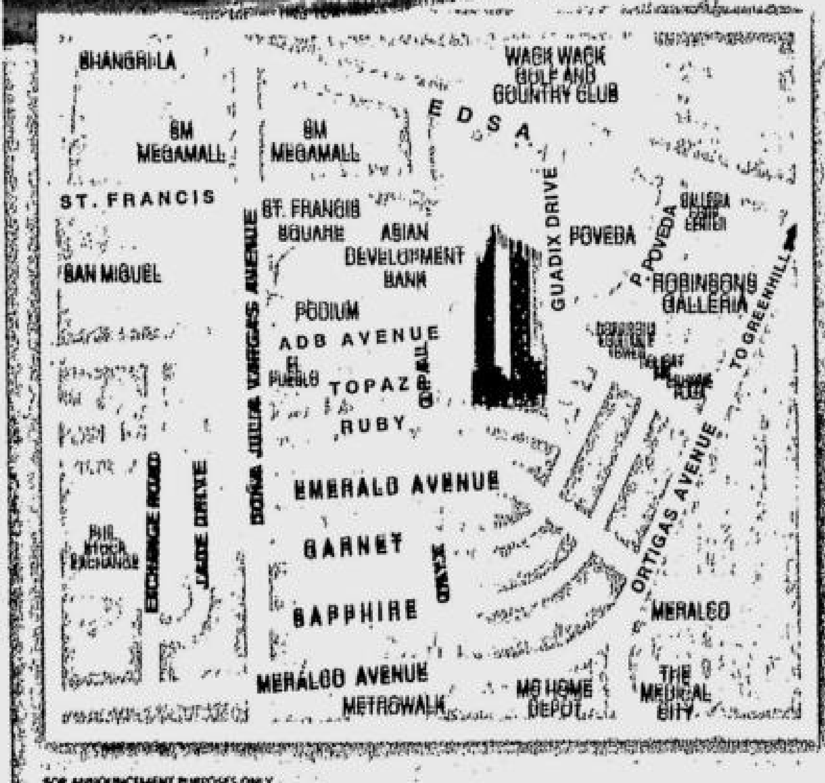
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Semirara sees strong Q4 finish

SEMIRARA MINING CORP. POSTED A NET profit after tax (NPAT) of P180 million in October and is poised for a strong fourth-quarter finish following the resumption of operations of Napocor's Calaca 2 power plant and improving sales from existing and new clients.

"The company expects a fourth-quarter profit of P774 million, an end-2005 NPAT of P1.6 billion and yearend cash of over P2 billion. Underpinning the bright outlook is the combined effects of the resumption of operation of Calaca 2 and the higher prices brought about by the expanded value added tax imposition beginning Nov. 1. We expect 2006 to be much better," the company said. Third quarter income was P151 million.

Fourth quarter income will benefit from the massive waste-stripping activity up to the third quarter as the company used its expanded capacity in anticipation of higher sales.

National Power Corp.'s Calaca plants, the company's single biggest buyer, finally resolved its technical difficulties and kicked back into operation in mid-October. It has already placed higher orders for coal for the rest of the year to make up for lost ground.

New clients, including the power-intensive pulp and paper industry, are also coming in. Semirara said higher oil prices are making cheaper coal a preferred alternative to many of these industries.

MetroPac, French firm eye new ventures

Partners in progress
Tra
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WORLD MONEY Transfer Inc., the Philippine unit of Travelex Worldwide Money Transfer, appointed Bank of Commerce as a sub-agent for its money transfer services. Bancommerce president Raul B. De Mesa and World Money Transfer president Antonio Martinez sealed the deal with a handshake, as Francis Hugo, World Money Transfer treasurer and Bancommerce SVP Manuel A. Manalastas look on.

Targeting toll road projects

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO PACIFIC CORP., THE LOCAL unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., is in talks with French firm Groupe Egis for possible joint venture deals in toll road projects other than the North Luzon Expressway and the Skyway, where they both have existing interests.

One of the possible projects being considered is the $200-million extension of the Skyway, according to Metro Pacific's top official.

"We have a general agreement with Egis to pursue toll road projects together, whether as an investor or operator," said Metro Pacific president Jose Ma. Lim in an interview. "But these are all still exploratory."

The Skyway, a 9.3-kilometer elevated highway from Magallanes to Alabang, can be extended by another six to seven kilometers to Bicutan, he said. The third phase of the Skyway project, worth $500 million, will connect it with the main road leading to North Luzon.

The Skyway project is controlled by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., a joint venture between Indonesian firm P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada and state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. Metro Pacific has a 10-percent stake in it but it had offered to take over control from the Indonesians early this year.

"They (Indonesians) are still evaluating (the offer). Meanwhile, we have to look at other opportunities," said Lim.

There are other toll projects that the joint venture with Egis can look into, he said. He, however, refused to elaborate on the details of these projects.

Metro Pacific chair Manuel V. Pangilinan earlier mentioned the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road or the Star highway as one option.

Egis has a 13 percent stake in Manila North Tollways Corp., a company controlled by Lopez-owned First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (Nlex operator). The French firm is selling an electronic toll network system to highway operators under its unit called Easytrip Services Corp.

The French firm specializes in projects such as roads and highways, airports, railways and other public utilities. It is controlled by Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations or CDC, which is a strong financial group and fund manager in Europe.

"There are other projects in South Luzon but not necessarily the SLEX (South Luzon Expressway)," he added.

Crucial issues must be resolved first before Metro Pacific and Egis can pursue the extension of Skyway, he said.

"The question is if we can pursue phase two of the Skyway without the participation of the phase one stakeholders," he said. "The creditors of phase one might also become interested."

Citra's contract with the government on the Skyway project supposedly involved the construction of an elevated highway from Makati City all the way to Alabang and the rehabilitation of ground level roads from Sucat to Alabang, and from Magallanes to Bicutan.

The Indonesian firm spent about $500 million to build the Skyway in 1995. About 70 percent of the amount was borrowed from local and foreign creditors.

Gov't urged to declare 'bond holiday' in '06

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DECLARE A "bond holiday" next year, and make use of huge dollar inflows from overseas Filipino workers to avoid fresh global bond offerings, House economic affairs committee chair and key Palace adviser Jose Salceda said yesterday.

Salceda told reporters after a committee hearing yesterday that he had proposed to Malacañang a sharp reduction in the volume of Philippine bonds issued abroad through this "bond holiday" tack.

"There will be no increase in the amount of bonds we have abroad but we must not issue new bonds," Salceda said.

He said the strategy would send a strong signal to the market that the government was really keen on trimming its debt burden.

With about $12 billion in OFW cash remittances (estimate included those coursed through informal channels), Salceda said the Philippines should not have any problem in meeting its debt requirements as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas could simply buy the dollars from the open market.

By making ROP (Republic of the Philippines) bonds scarce, the impact would also make future borrowings cheaper.

Asked whether it was possible to declare a bond holiday for the whole of 2006, Salceda said the government could adopt the tack for certain period.

Based on its fiscal program, however, the government is planning to raise $3.1 billion through fresh foreign bond offerings in 2006. The amount represents 48 percent of the government's total borrowing requirements for the year. Proceeds from these new commercial borrowings are among those seen supporting a $900-million balance of payments surplus target for next year.

The borrowings are also seen to boost the BSP' gross international reserves to between $18 billion and $18.6 billion next year, up from a projected $17 billion by the end of this year.

Salceda said the Philippines should take advantage of the strong supply of dollars from OFWs to manage its debts instead of simply hoarding them. However, he noted that Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. was aspiring to shore up the GIR to as high as $21 billion.

Salceda, a former stock market strategist, also said he favored the use of interest payment savings to pay off some of the country's debts prior to maturity.

Specifically, he said the government could buy back expensive bonds, such as the ROP 2030, which was issued last February at an interest rate of 8.75 percent.

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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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PDI 11-29-05

Big telcos oppose 3G applications of new firms

By Clarissa S. Batino

MAJOR MOBILE PHONE COMPANIES HAVE opposed the plan of AZ Communications Inc. and Next Mobile Inc. to operate third-generation or 3G wireless telecommunications services.

Globe Telecom Inc., Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc. have asked the National Telecommunications Commission to dismiss the applications of these firms on grounds that both firms were mere "speculators" and did not have enough money to put up the network.

Globe, in its petition to the NTC, said the two firms merely hoped to acquire the limited 3G frequencies and then later turn around and sell the licenses to other firms.

Globe said Next Mobile has a "pathetic track record" in the industry while AZ has no track record at all.

Trunk radio operator Next Mobile Inc., which is affiliated with listed firm Cashrounds Inc. and AZ Communications Inc. linked to Antonio Cojuangco have told the NTC separately that they would spend billions of pesos for the 3G rollout.

Other small players that have filed applications to operate a 3G network include Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc. of Roberto Ongpin, Multi-Media Telephony Inc. linked to Enrique Razon, and Pacific Wireless Inc.

Hearings on the opposition to the applications of AZ and Next Mobile have started and will likely extend to the middle of December.

The Commission is scheduled to award five 3G frequencies to carriers qualified and capable of operating and financing the roll-out of the next generation of cellular services.

The 3G network will allow wireless subscribers to make full-motion, real-time video calls and download content faster.

So far, only Globe, Digitel's Sun Cellular and Smart Communications Inc. can claim a track record in wireless telco operations.

Digitel questioned the financial capability of the two firms in its opposition filed with the NTC.

"We are opposing their applications because they do not have the financial capability to operate a 3G network," said Digitel senior vice president William Pamintuan.

In the case of Next Mobile, Pamintuan pointed out the company had long been operating at a loss.

Globe also said that Next Mobile has been operating since 1998 but only managed to attract 36,000 subscribers.

"Applicant is also plagued with violations of disclosure and nationalization rules, retrenchments, labor dispute and cash flow problems," said Globe of Next Mobile.

Bayantel, meanwhile, told the NTC that Next Mobile's operation "would constitute needless, wasteful and uneconomic duplication of existing telecom services resulting in a waste of valuable resources."

Gov't workers hone negotiating skills

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry yesterday said it expects to be a more adept trade negotiator after 341 government and civil society leaders went through intensive training on the World Trade Organization's trading system.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said in a press briefing that trainees have enlisted in the pioneering Philippine Global Trade e-Learning Program, which combines online instruction as well as face-to-face simulated negotiations.

The DTI signed two memoranda of agreement to implement the program—one with the Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy and another with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"This program would allow government and even private-sector representatives to get up-to-date on available knowledge as well as a give them the chance to interact with knowledgeable people around the world," Aquino said.

The official said the DTI hoped to continue the program with its partners—the Earth Council-Geneva, IATP, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Swiss Development Cooperation Agency-should it prove useful.

"(We aim at skirting) the constraints of the usual way we do things with regard to international trade," Aquino said. using this mode of learning."

The program provides basic and advanced e-learning courses on the multilateral trading system and WTO, which touches on of agriculture, environment, textiles and intellectual property.

The training's goal is to enhance the Philippines' meaningful participation in future trade negotiations and the effective implementation of trade agreements in the country, Aquino said.

According to the DTI, the program was pilot-tested for three weeks last January at the Philippine Trade Training Center with 40 representatives from 12 DTI bureaus and regional offices that served as pilot phase learners.

"We have never had this opportunity to offer world-class learning to so many," Aquino said. "It is important to keep all our stakeholders well informed so that we can get their inputs in developing our country's position on the myriad issues at stake in the global trade negotiations."

He said the current WTO negotiations present an overwhelming agenda to member countries.

The Doha Round, which is the basis for the upcoming 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December, includes critical areas of negotiations in such fields as services, agriculture, trade and the environment.

Nov. inflation seen at 6.7-7.1%

From page B1

The DOF said the cost of electricity was seen to increase by 6 percent.

Mitigating measures include reduction of tariffs on imported oil, removal of excise taxes on petroleum and of franchise tax on power.

Although a higher VAT rate would put pressure on prices next year, the impact could be minimized by the strengthening of the peso. The BSP has projected that the peso would average between 55 and 57 to a dollar next year. Yesterday, the peso moved strongly, closing at 53.945 to a dollar and registering an intraday high of 53.91 to a dollar.

Shares end flat on low GDP growth report

From page B1

prices, political instability and sluggish farm and industrial output.

With the poor third-quarter performance, officials said they were now expecting the full-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth to come in below the initial target of 5.3 percent.

"Before trading started, investors were thinking that the GDP report could be a catalyst for another market rally but it turned out the figures were disappointing," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

Trading may remain sluggish on Wednesday as more investors learn about the poor GDP data, said Rodrigo.

"We're coming into the market after a long weekend. It's possible that some investors are still on vacation," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities Inc.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the most actively traded stock, rising P10 to P1,745 .

Ayala Corp. gained P2.50 to P342.50 while unit Bank of the Philippine Islands advanced 50 centavos to P59 . Manila Water Co. rose 10 centavos to P6.60 .

San Miguel Corp. A shares, exclusive to Filipinos, gained 50 centavos to P65 while San Miguel Corp. B shares, available to foreigners, ended steady at P88.50. AFP

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"The Anatomy of a Leader" by Yoly Ong, Chair, Campaigns and Grey. Yoly Ong's leadership has been key to the success of Campaigns-the advertising agency she founded 19 years ago. Beyond billings, industry awards and HRD survey results, she actually measures success by " how the entire team works together to achieve common goals, then shares in the rewards of work well done." At the 6th ALS, Yoly shares how her insights on what makes a great leader, as well as personal anecdotes on her journey of leadership with integrity.

"Leadership and Integrity" by Alex Castillo, immediate past President, Del Monte, management consultant. Del Monte has been named Employer of the Year under Alex Castillo's leadership. Be inspired by Alex Castillo's stories of integrity and how his consistent practice of this value-in business and his personal life-has been rewarding for him, his company and his family. If you are in a position that often calls for judgement calls, you will find inspiration in Alex's courage and unwavering stand for integrity.

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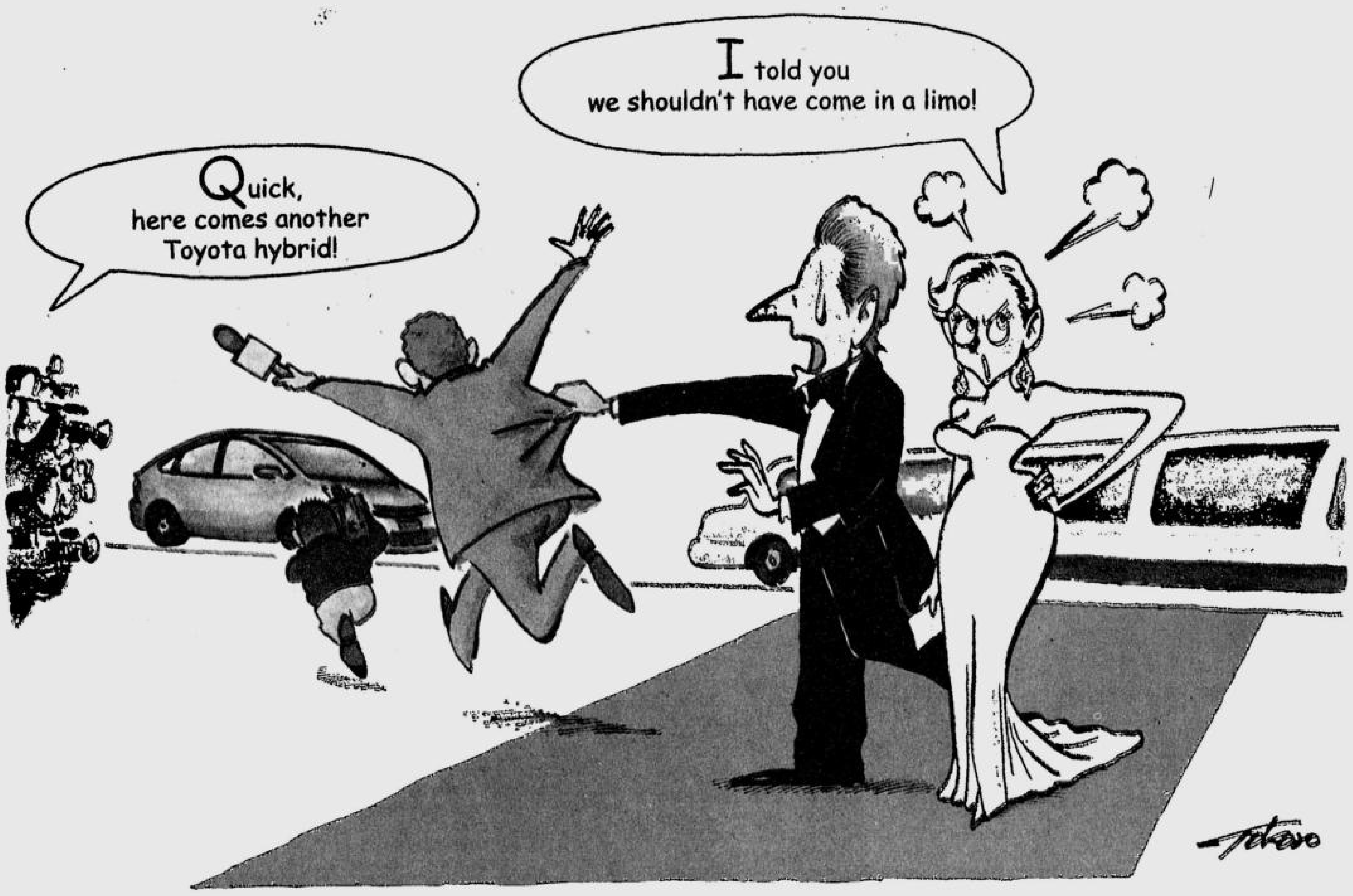
Toyota Technology Journal

Hybrid Innovation 3

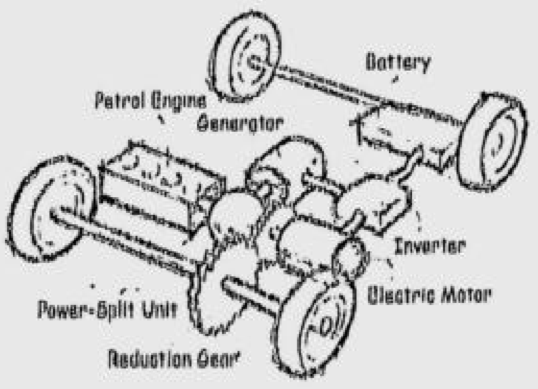


Not just another pretty face

These days, more and more Hollywood stars are giving up their big limousines and arriving at award ceremonies in eco-friendly, petrol-electric Toyota Prius sedans. Why? Because they and their fans know that beauty and intelligence go hand-in-hand.

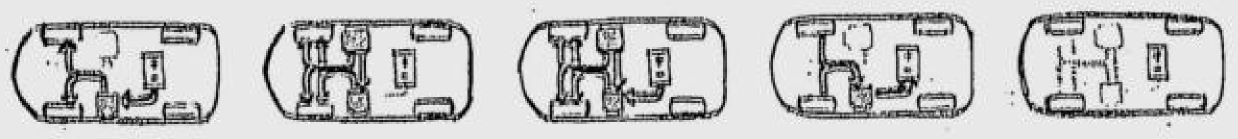
Toyota hybrid drive—the first production-model drive system to actually recycle energy—is the drive system of the future

Toyota hybrid drive assures powerful standing-starts, and power to spare for exhilarating low-speed and high-speed acceleration. What's more, it uses regenerative braking to convert and recycle kinetic energy into electrical energy that can be stored in the vehicle's battery for later use. It's this advanced hybrid technology that makes the Prius a truly exciting and environmentally friendly car to drive.



The Toyota Hybrid System in Action

▨ Petrol Engine
▦ Electric Motor

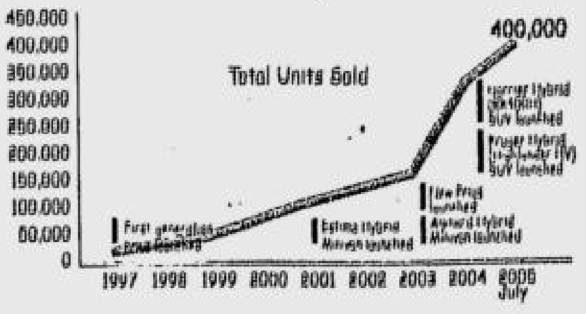


- **Standing Start & Low-Speed Acceleration** The electric motor draws power from the battery, assuring quick starts and superb low-speed acceleration.
- **Normal Driving** Power is provided by both the petrol engine and electric motor, continuously regulated to ensure maximum fuel efficiency.
- **Sudden Acceleration** The electric motor draws additional power from the battery to assure maximum power for exhilarating acceleration.
- **Braking & Deceleration** When the brakes are applied, the electric motor acts as a generator and converts kinetic energy into electricity that is used to charge the battery.
- **At Rest** When the vehicle is at rest, the engine and motor automatically switch off, reducing fuel consumption and emissions by eliminating wasteful engine idling.

Over 400,000* owners worldwide have recognised the value of Toyota hybrid technology

Since their introduction, the popularity of Toyota hybrid vehicles has soared, and there are now over 400,000 satisfied Toyota hybrid owners worldwide.

* Cumulative sales as of July 2005



Car of the Year in both North America and Europe—a "world's first" achievement

When it comes to Car of the Year awards, Europe and North America don't often agree. But the Toyota Prius proved its universal appeal by being named 2004 North American Car of the Year and 2005 European Car of the Year. It's the first car in history to win Car of the Year awards on both continents!

Prius sedan production line

Toyota hybrid technology — the new world standard for the automobile industry of tomorrow

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Editor Aries Espinosa

25 years of infotech academic excellence

ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE PROGENitor of the computer and information technology education in the country, AMA Education System (Amaes) celebrates its 25 years of dominance in the industry by harking back to its humble beginnings as a small computer institute that has grown to be the largest ICT-based education institution providing on-line learning and the best and latest array of information technology resources.

As the country's pioneer in computer education, Amaes has numerous milestones marking its more than two decades of existence: the first to offer courses in Computer Science and Computer Engineering; the first and only computer school to have been granted university status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); the first to offer e-learning; the first computer university to offer a Mechatronics program; the first computer school to receive ISO 9001 Certification from the SGS; the first Premier Education Partner of Microsoft; the first and exclusive training partner of Avaya; and the first computer school to establish branches in key cities and municipalities of the country and in other parts of the world.

The silver anniversary's theme will reminisce on these achievements and more and pay tribute to the men and women who made Amaes what it is today. The four-day celebration officially kicked off Nov. 23 and culminated on Nov. 26.

'Father of IT education'

It all started with a vision by Amable R. Aguiluz V, who blazed the trail for IT-based learning as the future of education. He is acknowledged as the "father of computer education" in the country and as a visionary. He was largely credited in pioneering computer education in the Philippines and brought it to greater heights during the IT explosion of the '80s. He established and founded the first and largest ICT-based educational institution, known today as the AMA Education System.

With over 200 schools in the country and around the world, Aguiluz built Asia's largest network of colleges and universities from scratch. He has been able to expand AMA into a P6.1-billion conglomerate considered as one of the most multi-awarded corporations in the Philippines. It now produces 150,000 IT-enabled and skilled graduates yearly, most of whom are now gainfully employed in leading IT companies worldwide.

Now the AMA education System has several components that cater to different levels of learning disciplines. These are the AMA Computer University (Amacu), AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC), AMA School of Medicine (ASM), St. Augustine International School (Sais), St. Augustine School of Nursing (SASN), ABE International Business College, AMA International Institute of Technology (AIIT), Norwegian Maritime Academy (NMA).

Eradicate IT illiteracy

Amaes is deeply committed to its vision to eradicate IT illiteracy and prepare Filipinos for the ITC revolution in the 21st century. As a result, the company introduced various innovations and groundbreaking programs in its curriculum this year, such as the e-Learning concept, a pioneering technology that simultaneously teaches massive number of students, utilizing the power of audio-video software and the Internet. Another innovation is the integration of Robotics in the curriculum, an advantage for AMA students because this latest technology is actually being utilized in modern manufacturing and servicing industries.

It was also the first academic IT institution in the country to utilize Mabuhay Satellite's state-of-the-art technology to deliver broadcast quality and superior audio and video clarity of course contents to its students. Owing to its international standards of excellence both in its learning programs and management, the system has been ISO certified, the first IT school to be conferred with such an award.

Amaes president Amable C. Aguiluz IX said these advancements would further boost AMA's position as the number one IT-based education hub in the whole of Asia. "AMA will remain as the bastion of ICT professionals in the country with these ground-breaking collaborations. It would revolutionize the way education is delivered in the Philippines, at the same time ensuring the high quality of its content and course offerings," he stressed.

True to the adage that success should be shared and be given back to the community, Amaes apart from its academic excellence takes pride in its corporate social responsibility (CSR) endeavors that greatly alleviate illiteracy. At the beginning of this year it introduced the AMA Assist Tuition Subsidy for Students which is intended for poor and underprivileged students. AMA Foundation, the social arm of Amaes, helps poor but deserving students by giving them scholarships. To date the scholarship program has already helped hundreds in fulfilling their dreams to finish school. These include scholarship donations to programs of media giants such as ABS-CBN and GMA 7. Donation programs to ease the plight of computer-less schools are also one of its major thrusts. Recently, the foundation donated three sets of computers to a public high school in Batangas..

The AMA Education System gives due recognition to its world-class affiliates and partners such as Microsoft, Cisco Systems, NCC-UK, Festo and the National University of Singapore. These internationally recognized companies support AMA in providing world-class computer education, distinguished cutting-edge technology, competent faculties in various fields of information and communications technology (ICT) and developing top of the line curricular programs.

Global operations

Amaes has recently accelerated its global operations in line with its commitment to international expansion. Its vision is to bring computer-based learning programs all over the world to help eradicate computer illiteracy especially in poor nations. The school system currently has branches in China, Hong Kong, Bahrain, Dubai, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Nepal. Ambassador Aguiluz V, who is also the Philippine Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council, said this would strengthen Amaes' position as the first IT university to expand internationally. "Our school system makes a conscious effort to complement the needs of the global market for high quality education, be it in IT, business, maritime, or healthcare. We recognize the IT-based education requirements of the global economy that caters not only our countrymen living outside the Philippines but also other nationalities as well. This is the reason we have expanded to other countries in order to deliver world-class academic programs AMA is known for," he added.

GLOBE TELECOM
2GO

GLOBE, 2GO IN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Globe chief financial officer Delfin C. Gonzales Jr and Globe Telecom president Gerardo Ablaza Jr recently sealed an agreement with 2GO president and chief executive officer Sabin M. Aboitiz and 2GO chief operating officer Efren E. Uy in servicing Globe's logistics management needs beginning Oct. 1, 2005.

INTERMED SIGNS DISTRIBUTION CONTRACT WITH ZUELLIG PHARMA

Intermed Marketing Philippines Inc, a leading Filipino-owned manufacturer and marketer of pediatric and prenatal vitamins and antibiotics, including the Cherifer vitamin product line, recently appointed Zuellig Pharma Corp as its exclusive distributor in the Philippines. Shown are (first row, from left) Fernando V. Segovia, president, Intermed; Tomas Victorino A. Meneses, chair and chief executive, Intermed; and Michael Becker, president and chief executive, Zuellig Pharma; (back row, from left) Brett Marshall, vice president, Zuellig Pharma; and Rafael P. Cruz, vice president, Zuellig Pharma.

Stress-free travel with Balikbayan Gear

WE KNOW THAT FILIPINO TRAVELERS, whether bakasyonistas or OFWs, are fond of taking home tons of pasalubong for family and friends back home. This can prove to be tiring and stressful, what with the bundle of stuff to pack and the many bags and parcels to carry to the airport.

Balikbayan Gear offers a stylish solution to this traveler's dilemma with its flagship product, the Balikbayan Box Cover (BBC). This innovative travel gear is essentially a bag made of heavy-duty polycanvas, a carry-all for the balikbayan box and contents.

The BBC is perfect for pasalubong cardboard boxes and meets size guidelines for airline luggage. Its durable features are designed to seal items more tightly for better handling, even while in transit. Reinforced seams are strategically placed in critical parts of the box cover to bear even those heavy imported goods. The hassle-free "zip up and go" packing (and unpacking) of the BBC is ideal for those last-minute purchases or at the airport when your luggage is found overweight. You can also ship your balikbayan boxes in style! Available in 10 colors, the Balikbayan Box Cover also accommodates standard luggage locks to prevent loss of items, rendering your cargo tamper-free.

Check out the complete Balikbayan Gear product line at SM Megamall starting this month and all throughout December. Other smart travel accessories for a stress-free flying experience include: travel strap for your cardboard boxes (toss those ugly ropes and tape), travel pillow, travel hip pack, convertible tote bag (for unplanned purchases), jewelry organizer and global organizer to hold your valuables - passport, wallet, cellphone, etc.

Balikbayan Gear products are also available at Rustan's Filipiniana, Ace, True Value, Duty Free Home Office, SM Filipiniana, Kultura Stores, Office Warehouse, Box It Right, SM Luggage, SM Workshop, Robinsons Handyman, Federal Hardware, Dusit Hotel and Tesoro's. Overseas orders may also be placed via http://www.balikbayangear.com.

Seminar set on putting up successful realty brokerage office

MANY PROSPECTIVE REALTY INVESTORS and developers, fearing that they still lack the complete knowledge and experience, become too cautious and sometimes hesitate in immediately going to business. In cases like these, it would be advisable for them to first set up a real estate brokerage and marketing company. In this way, for a smaller capital, the investor will be able to acquire more knowledge and experience and would also give him the opportunity to associate and to learn from veteran realty practitioners. This can serve as the stepping stone towards the bigger business fields of real estate such as property management, leasing, financing, build-and-sell and development.

At the same time that it provides experience, real estate brokerage can be a financially rewarding profession that could build up more capital.

To learn more on real estate as a profession and be properly guided in setting up a realty brokerage company, Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "How To Start And Manage A Successful Realty Office" on Nov. 30, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. A repeat of the same seminar shall be held at the Max's Restaurant, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City on Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Topics included are sources and how to secure properties for sale; needed documents such as authority to sell; requirements to be entitled to commission; how to safeguard your commission; how to start and close a transaction; sales organizational structures; sales personnel recruitment techniques; training programs; advancement and career path programs; commission structures, awards and other incentives; how to do real estate networking; real estate associations; franchising; business operations; real estate brokerage, terminologies, definition of real estate professionals, qualifications and licensing requirements, subjects covered in the licensing examination; penalties for illegal practice, duties of a professional to his clients, and other relevant topics.

For more details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174, or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Beat the feet blues with Burlington Bio Fresh

THE MONSOON SEASON has its boon and bane. It is good for the parched earth, which needs revitalizing. But while the rain nourishes vegetation, it also condones those microorganisms that proliferate in the damp corners of our homes, and woebegone, our feet.

But not to despair, as Burlington has recently come up with a brilliant idea-Bio Fresh antimicrobial technology, which eliminates bacteria and microorganisms that cause feet odor. This is absorbed into the socks and stays effective after repeated washing. It acts like a sword that punctures and disrupts the delicate cell membrane of microorganisms that cause bad odor.

Biofresh socks are from Burlington Industries Philippines (BIP) Inc, maker of quality hosiery for decades. "We are always searching for ways that will give our clients better protection for their feet," explains Ruddy Tan, BIP's general manager.

Its most recent breakthrough, the Bio Fresh Technology, is a significantly different and unique antimicrobial system which does not affect the normal skin bacteria or cause rashes or skin irritations.

Strength and adherence test results conducted by Aegis Laboratory International certifies the high 61-percent bacteria reduction after 20 washings after 24 hours. "Burlington's Bio Fresh Socks passed our test with flying colors," discloses Jim Krueger, Aegis VP for Marketing.

Detecting the presence of Bio Fresh in one's socks is easy: just dip them into a diluted blue-staining solution (BPB) and then rinse with water. The BPB agent will produce a distinctive blue stain that will not be washed away by the water.

Burlington's Biofresh is the recipient of the National Shopper's Choice Awards bestowed recently at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. For its citation, the judges underscored the company's commitment to innovations for ultimate end-user satisfaction in citing the anti-microbial socks. Burlington brand managers Niño S. Mas and Mark Salecina accepted the trophy from the award-giving body.

New Super Bowl store

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA TREATED FILIPINOS TO more super dining experiences this year by opening three new stores in three prime locations, namely the Gateway Mall in Araneta Center; Bluewave Mall in Marikina, and SM San Lazaro Mall in Manila. This Nov. 30, the restaurant chain is set to launch yet another branch-this time in Tomas Morato Avenue corner Eugenio Lopez Drive (near ABS-CBN) in Quezon City. The opening of the 120-seater, 2-story store will bring to 13 the total number of Super Bowl and Big Buddha branches in Metro Manila. The company plans to pursue its expansion plans next year by bringing to 20 its total number of stores with the opening of 6 more stores in Metro Manila and key urban cities in select provincial locations. Lovers of Chinese Cuisine from Quezon City and nearby communities north of Manila will start enjoying Super Bowl of China specialties. So rush to the newest Super Bowl of China restaurant or dial Super Bowl's Super Delivery hotline at 737-8888.

MRII reviewees hit top

MANILA REVIEW INSTITUTE INC (MRII) reviewees hit top spots in the recent Licensure Examinations for Sanitary and Mechanical Engineering given by the Professional Regulation Commission Sept 21 to 23 and Oct. 18 to 20, respectively. Recognized topnotchers by the members of the Board of Sanitary Engineering were Ludivina L. Afuang of National University, 1st place; Pedro E. Aquino Jr of Baguio Colleges Foundation, 3rd; and Maria Camille L. Balisnomo of Mapua Institute of Technology, 6th. In the Mechanical Engineering Licensure Examination, Ronnie S. Guarin of the University of the Philippines-Diliman copped 7th. MRII shall open review classes for February 2006 and March 2006 Licensure Examinations for Sanitary Engineers and Master Plumbers on Jan. 16 and Feb. 4, respectively. MRII has published Mechanical Engineering Tables and Charts, 5th Edition for the use of mechanical engineering students and faculty and a handy reference for professional engineers who are engaged in refrigeration and air-conditioning practice. For inquiries, visit MRII at the 3rd floor of the Consuelo Building, 929 Nicanor Reyes Street (formerly Morayta), Manila, or call 735-0112 to 14. E-mail mrii@tri-isys.com.

UPCM celebrates 100

THE UP-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Centennial Celebration will be held on Dec. 1. On Dec. 1, 1905, the Philippine Medical School was established by the Philippine Commission as the first department of the future University of the Philippines under Act No. 1415, and was opened on June 10, 1907. Since then, UPCM alumni have held numerous top positions in government (e.g. Senator Juan Flavier and majority of the Secretaries of Health of the Philippines); have been elected and continue to be the leaders of medical professional organizations. UPCM kicked off the centennial celebrations last December 1, 2004. This year, the whole day affair will be capped by a program at 6 p.m. at the UP Theater, Diliman. all UPCM alumni, alumnae, faculty, students, and graduates of PGH are invited to attend this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

PIEP national confab Dec. 2

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL Planners, a multi-disciplinary professional organization composed of urban and regional planners, town/city and community planners, among others, will be holding its National Convention on Dec. 2 and 3 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue, Quezon City. This year's theme is "Meeting the Challenges of Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction". The convention will provide venue for presentation and discussion of global, national and local perspective and situations on natural and man made disasters, hazards and vulnerabilities, as well as institutional and community based responses for disaster mitigation. Everyone is invited! For more details, call Arlene G. Ty at 920-9705; telefax 927-3595; or 0917-3225556; e-mail piep_secretariat@yahoo.com.

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 1137 P. Gil St Paco Mla WILL SELL ALL EXPIRED PLEDGES OF APRIL AND MAY 2005 ON DEC. 11, 2005 SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM (SONS OF J. LANUZA-AUCTIONEER)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of HERMENEGILDO M. CURIO have executed a Deed of Adjudication with Waiver of his estate covered by TCT # N-176108 of Reg. of Deeds for QC on Nov. 21, 2005 per Doc 340; Page 69; Book VIII; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty Lourdes T. Pagayatan of QC.
PDI-Nov 23,30 & Dec 7, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONRADO YUZON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with waiver of rights before Notary Public Atty. Hector Centeno as per Doc#160 Page#32 Book#8 Series 2005.
PDI-Nov.30 Dec.7&14, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSIE MARAVILLA ZAMORA has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. No. 25 Page No. 5 Book No. VIII Series of 2005 before Notary Public Jaime Discaya of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov.30,Dec.7&14, 2005

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORP. stock certificate no. 100015050 for 5220 shares issued to LOURDES C. GOQUINGCO was reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7. 2005

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City invites all interested Grains Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for handling the movement of grain stocks and by-products in the warehouses, ricemills and other installations of Region III and to load/unload to/from trucks said commodities with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the year 2006 as follows:

PROVINCES	LOT NO.	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (IN BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Aurora	I	GID-Baler	169,400	772,464.00
		Bartolome-Ma. Aurora		
		GID-Casiguran		
Bataan	II	GID 1 & 2-Balanga	261,875	1,157,487.50
		FLGC-Dinalupihan		
Bulacan	III	GID 1,2 & 3-Balagtas	345,000	1,669,800.00
	IV	GID 1 & 2-San Ildefonso	120,000	580,800.00
	V	GID 1 & 2-Tikay	330,000	1,597,200.00
	VI	GID 1 & 2-Sta. Rita	185,000	895,400.00
	VII	TLL Whses-Marilao	1,197,750	5,797,110.00
Nueva Ecija	VIII	Whse 1-13-Cab City	1,428,400	6,942,024.00
		Whse 1 & 2-Gapan		
	IX	Aliaga Whse-Aliaga	265,500	1,290,330.00
		GID-Bongabon		
		Guimba Whse 1-2		
Pampanga	X	Sindalan 1 and 2	523,800	2,472,336.00
	XI	Del Rosario Whse	190,000	896,800.00
Tarlac	XII	Aguso 1-3 & 5	303,750	1,579,500.00
	XIII	GID 1-3	239,700	1,246,440.00
		Concepcion-Jefmin		
Zambales	XIV	GID and Mango Terminal-Iba	107,500	539,650.00
	XV	Castillejos Whse	55,875	280,492.50

The prospective bidder may bid in any or all lots upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P 500.00, bidding fee of P 2,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Official Receipt

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE
1. Issuance of Application and Bidding Documents	November 24-December 14, 2005
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	December 15, 2005 (10:00AM)
3. Deadline of submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	December 28, 2005 (10:00AM)

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index completed and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Director/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – November 23 & 30, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
PAGASA Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104

P.R. No. WB 05-962, 963, 977-978
Upgrading of Ground Facility/ACU Parts/Computers
PAGASA Central Office

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project
- Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Ground Facility
- Supply & Delivery of Air Conditioning Unit Parts
- Supply & Delivery of Computers for data receiving workstation
- Supply & Delivery of Computers for data processing and display workstation

Location: PAGASA Central Office Science Garden Complex, Agham Road. Dil., Q.C.

Qty/Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price Validity	Delivery Period
1 Lot	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of ground facility to receive and process polar orbiting data of NOAA KLMN and FY-1 series	P 5,300,000.00	Ninety (90) Calendar days	Thirty (30) Calendar days
8 units	3 0 TR Floor Mounted Split type airconditioner @ P 60,000.00	P 480,000.00	Ninety (90) Calendar days	Seven (7) working days
2 units	Computer for data receiving workstation @ P 80,000.00	P 160,000.00	Ninety (90) Calendar days	Seven (7) working days
2 units	Computer for data processing and display workstation @ P 80,000.00	P 160,000.00	Ninety (90) Calendar days	Seven (7) working days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Requirements & Bidding Documents	November 29 to December 12, 2005	General Services Section 3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 13, 2005 / 2:00 p.m.	Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3 Opening of Eligibility Requirements	December 26, 2005 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	
Opening of Bids – Envelope I and II	December 26, 2005 / 2:00 p.m.	
4. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	December 27, 2005 – January 3, 2006	
5. Notice of Award	January 10, 2006	

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in no case lower than P 500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the Company's TIN.

The PAGASA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) PRISCO D. NILO
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI – November 30, 2005)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Homecare Nurse Single 5333495

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS FAX -RESUME AT 879-8272

Pharmacist 6915513 09178512031

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

NFA rice supply assured during the holidays

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATOR Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. reiterated the assurance that the country's rice inventory is sufficient to meet the requirements for the staple this coming Christmas season. Tan also said that the price of the agency's well-milled rice will be maintained at the present level of P18 per kg. This is despite the increases in fuel prices and the recent imposition of the expanded value added tax (EVAT). Rice is exempted from the EVAT. The NFA head is also confident of the country's stable rice supply as palay procurement in the countryside, now on the second month of the main harvest, is peaking. Although only 44 percent of the agency's procurement target for last month has been met, it augured well for the farmers as they benefited from the higher farm gate prices being offered by private traders. The NFA, however, is still aggressive in its palay buying activities especially in the heavy palay producing provinces. Tan assured both farmers and consumers that the food agency continues to be vigilant in the implementation of its various programs to ensure the country's food security. For more information regarding the agency's operations and programs, the public may send their inquiries, complaints via the text NFA program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

DANILO V. JIMENEZ

14 March 1958 - 28 November 2005

His parents **Dr. Hernani & Chim Jimenez**; siblings **Nani, Jr. & Luchie Jimenez, Rose & Tony Paner, Dr. Maloi & Ramon Ong**; nephews & nieces **Dino & Kaye, Anna & Alexandra, Jimenez, Raphael Paner, PJ, Paolo & Nikki Ong**; Grandnieces **Nica & Danii Jimenez**, request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness.

Interment will be on 30 November 2005, at the La Carlota City Catholic Cemetery at Mabini St., La Carlota City Negros Occidental

In Loving Memory
11th Death Anniversary of

Pacita "Patty" Garcia

Holy Masses will be offered for her eternal peace & happiness

1. Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Hemady, Q. C.	6:00 A.M.
2. Mary the Queen Parish Greenhills	6:00 P.M.
3. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway	6:00 P.M.
4. Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 P.M.
5. Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Brixton Hill, Q.C.	6:30 P.M.

The family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

GRETEL KATIGBAK MANANSALA

January 21, 1971 – November 29, 2005

Parents	:	**Atty. Gabriel V. Manansala** **Gloria L. Katigbak** (†)
Sister	:	**Atty. Georgia K. Manansala Pangan** Brother-in-law : **Michael Pangan**
Brothers	:	**Gabriel Segundo Manansala** (†) , **Gabriel K. Manansala III** Sister-in-law : **Adora Alzona**
Nieces	:	**Nina M. Pangan** **Gilly M. Pangan** **Gracie M. Pangan** **Gia A. Manansala** **Gari A. Manansala**

Her remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, December 2, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel.

SANTIAGO DE GUZMAN AFABLE

Born: March 21, 1931 - Died: November 26, 2005
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 74.

His beloved wife **JUDITH MEDINA AFABLE**; children and in-laws **MIKE & LORY, MINNIE & NOMER, MARGARITA BERNADETTE & JIM RANKIN, JESSICA & DAVE LOVO, DR. ALEXANDER & MARIELEISE, DOMINIC, ISIDORE & FELY**, grandchildren: **MADELAINE, MICO, MARVIN, KC, JEREMIAH, GENESIS, SEAN PAUL RANKIN, ANDREA, ALEXA LIZ & JULIANNE**, sisters: **LOURDES ZALDARRIAGA, VIOLETA YBIERNAS, ALICIA ALZATE** (†), brothers **AUGUSTO** (†), **VALENTIN JR.** (†), & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 1-C), 264-G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00PM Mass.

EMIGDIO TECSON PASCUA, JR.

Died peacefully on November 29, 2005 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Nanding** (†); children **Laura, Dante** and **Lyn, Regina** and **Lenard, Leonides** and **Leila**; grandchildren, brothers, sister and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at a date to be announced later.

> *"I am the way, the truth and the life.*
> *No one comes to the Father except through Me."* **John 14:6**

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CERTIFYIT! FOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMMED 2 SUCCEED, OFFICIALLY OPENS

Nov. 8, 2005 marked the official opening of the Philippines' certification and training event of the year for the ICT sector, "CertifyIT!." This year's focus: Software Development." CertifyIT! attracted a select crowd of achievers from the developer community and key decision makers seeking to learn more about the latest certification and global standards. CertifyIT! was presented by IBM with sponsors Microsoft, SAP and Globequest. CertifyIT was supported by Sun Microsystems and Infocom Technologies and was partnered with the Philippine ICT sector's key associations, PSIA, PCS, PSITE, TESDA, CEBUSOFT, CEDF-IT and was endorsed by the CICT. Program development partner who organized this year's CMMI information-packed conference was ECCI. CertifyIT is a landmark initiative of www.itpros.ph, Your 100% Tech Jobs Resource. Shown from left: Gina Duminy, VP, itpros.ph; Judy Maramo, education administrator SAP; Allan So, country brand manager for Rational Software, IBM; Nora Terrado, director for HR, PSIA; Sec. Virgilio Pena, CICT; Mylene Castillo, ISV/CPLS manager and Mark Yambot, corporate affairs director, Microsoft; Aries Sayson, head of corporate sales, Globequest/Innove.

ATENEO ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2005 SIGNS UP ENTERTAINMENT

Popular young entertainer Cherrylou Maglasang signs up for this year's Ateneo Alumni Homecoming scheduled on Dec. 3. With her at the contract signing are Raffy Jose and TG Limcaoco of Ateneo High School Batch 1980, organizers of the Ateneo Alumni Homecoming 2005. Famous for the latest Manila Girl music video Jeni will serve as one of the show hostesses and will render dynamic song and dance routines during this year's edition of Ateneo's annual concert cum party. Dubbed Labora Dure, Lude Dure (latin for Work Hard, Play Hard) this year's homecoming is presented by SMART and also features jubilarian batches from the Ateneo's Grade School, High School and College of 1955, 1965, 1980 and 1995. More details and registration facilities are at www.ateneohomecoming.com.

Supervisory Leadership Development

December 2, 2005, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Richmonde Hotel

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

LEARNING SEED

Session I : Why Some Supervisors Fail
Session II : Becoming a Supervisor
Session III : Some Nuts And Bolts of Supervison
Session IV : Planning and Goal Setting
Session V : Leading Your People
Session VI : How to Motivate for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience
- Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
- Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role of leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
- Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

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UPSIDA'S first postgrad course held

UP-PGH SOCIETY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ALUMNI (UPSIDA) in cooperation with the Foundation for the Control of Infectious Diseases (FCID), Inc. held its 1st Postgraduate Course on Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine on Nov. 28-29 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel. UPSIDA is the organization of the alumni of the UP-PGH Fellowship Training Program in Infectious Diseases headed by Dr. Myrna T. Mendoza who also chaired the organizing committee of the course. Aptly dubbed "Updates 2005," the course was designed to tackle the latest in infectious diseases, tropical medicine and clinical microbiology addressing the challenges of emerging and re-emerging infections in the country. Lectures and interactive sessions included are most interesting to interns, family physicians, pediatricians and health care workers in general. The faculty includes Drs. Rose Marie S. Arciaga, Elfleda A. Hernandez, Ma. Liza M. Gonzales, Eufrocina A. Melendres, Maribel R. Pagcatipunan, Socorro D. Mendoza, Vicente S. Quimpo, Camilo Roam, Dorina Bustos, Fe Esperanza Caridad Espino, Manolito L. Chua, and leaders in the field of infectious diseases in the country, among whom are Drs. Mediadora C. Saniel, Cecilia S. Montalban, Mary Ann D. Lansang, and Jaime C. Montoya. CME units from the course will be credited by the Philippine Medical Association, Philippine College of Physicians (PCP), Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP).

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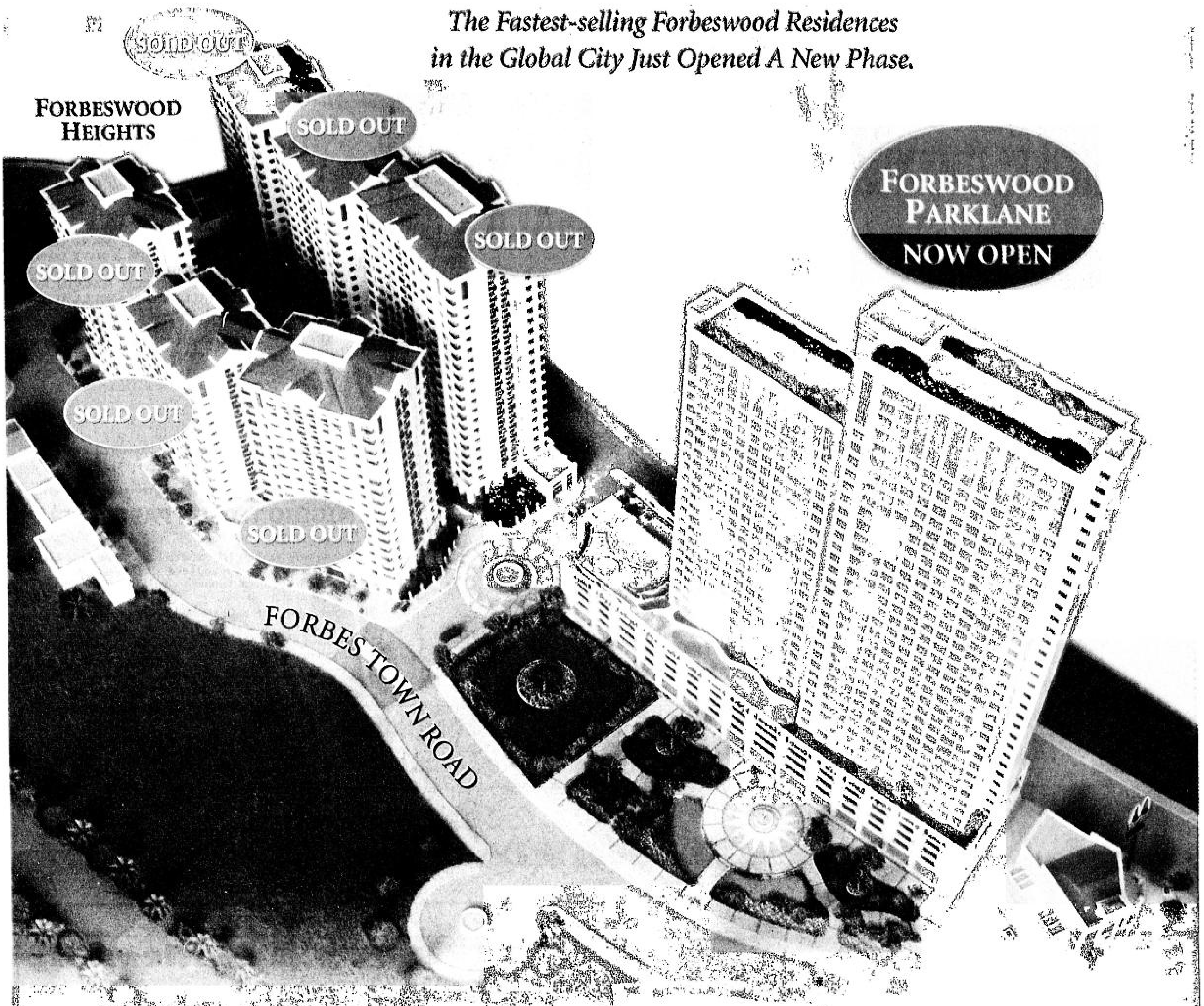

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

1st PLACE
3rd PLACE
Ultro

CAT'S MEOW [illegible]

Love being last!

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE ARE MOTORING journalists and there are motoring journalists who race. Though these two kinds of media denizens may finish neck-and-neck in the race for the newsroom deadline, the suspense stops there. At the racetracks where bragging rights can sometimes be worth more than the paper you keep, the hybrid journos-cum-racers lord it over the pencil-pushing competition.

So where does this put me? In one word, limbo. I am neither a bonafide racecar driver nor a geeky journalist who'd rather race full time with time zones than at the Speedzone. I may have had some training now and then (thanks to JP Tuason's patient team at the TRS), but I don't have a racing license.

I can certainly match streetsmart wits with any crafty taxicab driver out there, but I eat dust shaken and stirred with love from motoring mediamen who have had years and years of rally and track experience. I am not at the head of the pack and I don't sweep the rear. I am in-between, and that sucks, because in-betweeners are even less noticeable than the trailers.

A Mt. Everest for me

And so, during media races, a podium finish has always been like a Mt. Everest for me. It's there, I want to climb it, but it seems insurmountable. Perhaps the only time that I would have a chance to step up the podium would be when a freak accident occurs like when a huge pileup happens where all the racers are decommissioned, and I would be the only one left running to finish the race. Okay, I'm selfish. Make it three of us left to finish the race, and I happen to be ahead of the two.

Other evil thoughts cross my mind. I would be serving my fellow race mates spoiled chicken or expired beef an hour before the flag-off. Being a vegetarian, I would have an excuse to beg off from the feast. At the starting gun, I would win by default. So while all my rivals hug the toilet bowls begging for mercy from their donkeys, I would be kissing my 1-2-3 finish trophies.

My evil daydreams could go on and on. But then my motoring editor would just as well whack my head with a rolled-up newspaper, demanding me to submit my story on time for once. That would send me crashing back to reality, and start writing a report on how this and that motoring reporter topped a media race, again, in dramatic fashion, as always.

After six years of covering the beat, I tend to ask myself: When will I shower my adoring fans with champagne, when will I bring home a trophy, even a medal? When will I be head and shoulders above the rest? When will I tell my nephew and nieces that their aunt, finally, arrived at the finish line not late, not on time, but ahead of time and all the rest?

I have learned also that in six years of covering the motoring beat, you can't answer all your questions on your own, and you can't learn when no one's teaching. So, with the help of other motoring media personalities who were kind enough to share their hard-earned skills, I improved my racing knowledge. I also joined industry-initiated racing events such as the Honda Media Challenge.

And when the country's most prominent racing family formed a racing school to teach the next generation of racers, I swallowed my pride and mingled with the promising teens of formula racing during lectures and actual runs. Think of a middle-aged Catwoman sitting beside Professor Xavier's prepubescent kittens to relearn the art of leaping on roofs.

Thankfully, Tuason Racing School instructors JP Tuason, Alex Morales, Mike Tuason and Jules Arambulo didn't kick me out of school for my constant truancy and tardiness. They must have sensed the Force in me, or maybe I was just as stubborn as a barnacle and they just couldn't chuck me out into the open sea.

But every time I came back to their school after a long absence, they would heave that weary sigh and remark: *Manehong kalye ka na naman* (Have you gone back to your street-driving ways)?

No meowing neophytes

A few days back, I got invited by TRS resident commander-in-chief Jeanette Tuason to join the team for an opportunity to mix it up with, ac

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25 years in the bag

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT IS A PITY THAT SRS (SECONDARY restraint system) airbags are not yet required by law in all passenger vehicles sold in the Philippines. To date, airbags have saved over 14,200 human lives in the United States and in Germany since 1990, the airbag has prevented over 2,500 fatal injuries.

The manager of vehicle safety and chair of the Australian New Car Accident Protection steering committee, who has been involved in road safety since 1980, was quoted by the Herald Sun last Friday as saying that airbags are one of the three best things he has seen. The other two are seatbelts and, lately, electronic stability control.

Reduced risk

He said that statistics from actual crashes show that airbags in front reduce injury risk by 50 percent. A survey conducted by the Monash University Accident Research Center found that the driver airbag reduced the severity of head injuries by 75 percent, facial injuries by 51 percent, neck injuries by 70 percent and chest injuries by 47 percent. MUARC took the results of 155 frontal crashes involving airbag-equipped and nonairbag-equipped GM Holden Commodores between 1998 and 1999 and compared them.

The first production car to be fitted with a driver's side airbag was the 1980 Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan. The airbag's debut culminated over 13 years of development work, 250 crash tests and seven million kilometers of testing.

The development of the airbag began at Mercedes-Benz (MB) in 1967. In 1971, MB applied for a patent and after the debut of the airbag in the MB S-Class in 1980, MB made the driver's airbag standard in all its cars in the United States in 1985. In 1993, MB unveiled the world's first side airbag as a concept study at the Geneva Motor Show.

25th birthday

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the airbag. So far, MB has equipped over 12 million vehicles with airbags. The 2005 MB S-Class, which was launched in Manila recently, is equipped with a computer that assesses the severity of an accident and individual front passenger data so that the airbags can be fired in two stages, depending on the type of accident.

Volvo came up with the driver airbag in 1987, the front passenger airbag in 1992, the side airbag in 1994, the inflatable curtain in 1998 and dual stage airbags in 2000. The Lexus GS may be the airbag king as it has 14, including driver and passenger knee-protection airbags.

Airbags save thousands of lives all over the world every year but can kill when used improperly. To date, several hundred people, mostly children under 12, have been killed by airbag deployment. Road safety experts and car manufacturers advise that children under 12 always sit in the back seat wearing appropriate restraints.

Explosive

This is because although it is a safety cushion, an airbag is an explosive device, deploying in 50 milliseconds or half the time it takes to blink your eye. It comes out at about 200 kph and needs 200 mm to inflate, so small children or anyone without a seatbelt is at risk. But lately, the risk has been reduced because airbags have sensors to show if the driver and front passenger are wearing seatbelts.

Public acceptance of the airbag came only in the early 1990s in the United States. The death of a tester in an airbag-related accident in 1974 and the decapitation of a child by a front-passenger airbag in a parking lot accident at 5 kph created a dispute over its safety. "The airbag will kill more people than it saves," critics said. The airbag is really just a lot of hot air, was another popular notion.

Fatalities

In 1970, the US federal government, faced with mounting highway fatalities, ordered automakers to develop inflatable safety airbags that could eventually be installed in all US autos by 1973. But the fatal accident involving an airbag in 1974 delayed the introduction of the airbag.

In 1989, 7 percent of cars built in the United States had an airbag. That figure leaped to 71 percent in 1993. The US Congress passed a law requiring all passenger cars, starting in the 1998 model year, to have a driver airbag.

I am not aware of any survey done in the Philippines showing how many lives have been saved by the airbag. However, anyone shopping for a new car can—and should—find out if the car he is thinking of buying is equipped with at least a driver airbag. Better still, if it also has a front-passenger airbag.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Alcohol and calculus don't mix. Never drink and derive.

* * *

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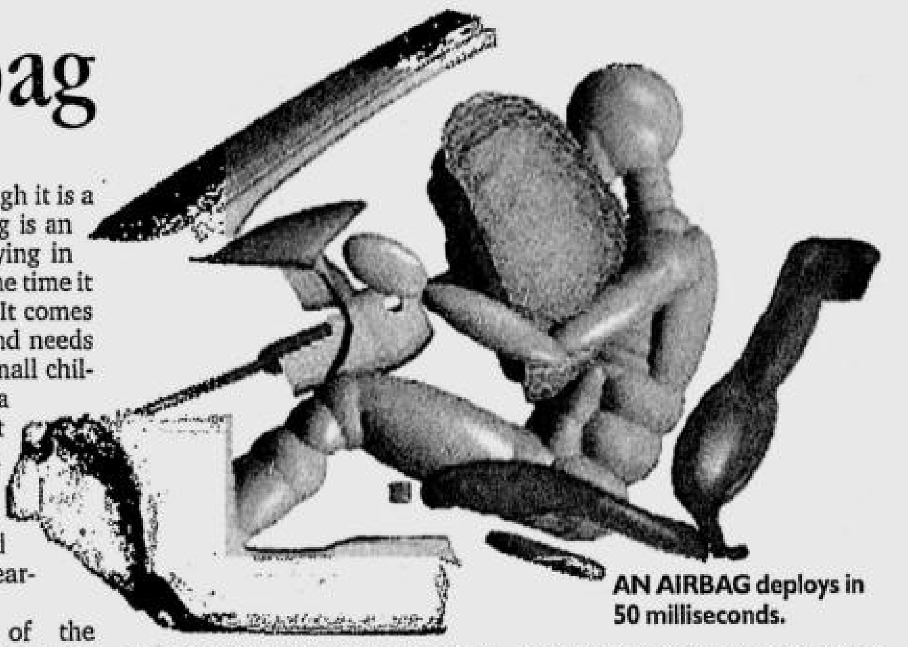

AN AIRBAG deploys in 50 milliseconds.

Toyota also in SEA Games; Honda hooray

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

WHILE ALL ROADS PRACTICALLY LEAD to the sporting fields this week on account of the 23rd SEA Games, it is comforting to note that Toyota has also given its own humble contribution to the nine-day event, rather discreetly that is.

The Games make for a bridge to unify all the nation's sectors and Toyota, in its own "silent" way, has joined the cry for national unity.

Through its quick-to-the-draw, extremely energetic Danny "Sir John" Isla, Toyota's presence in the Games can be felt, albeit transparently, through the transport of key personnel helping out in the competitions.

It is no joke hosting an international event involving more than 7,000 people from 11 countries of Southeast Asia.

So massive is this year's edition of the biennial meet that 16 cities and municipalities all over the archipelago are hosts to nearly 50 disciplines being played in the Games—from Subic to Cebu, from Laguna to Bacolod, and from Makati to Mandaue, athletes are flexing their muscles for that precious gold medal all the way to Dec. 5.

Toyota Motor Philippines isn't openly saying it but of course those in the know are aware that Toyota is "invisibly" present in this so-called Olympic Games in Southeast Asia.

For this, I doff my hat off anew to TMP president Nobuharu Tabata, Toyota VP Danny Isla and, of course, to that youthful TMP vice chair, Alfred Ty.

May your tribe increase, fellas.

* * *

I read the good news that Honda's all-new Honda Civic earned the 2006 Car of the Year award from Motor Trend, the prestigious American magazine. The award extends to the entire Civic Sedan and Civic Coupé lineup, including the environmentally responsible Civic Hybrid and high-performance Civic Si models.

I'm not surprised about this bit of good news. Even here in the Philippines, Honda's reputation of producing quality vehicles is legendary.

The Motor Trend editorial staff selected the Honda Civic from a field of 28 new or substantially revised models—the largest to date—recognizing it for exceptional value, superiority in its class and the most significant development on the new-car scene for 2006.

The testing took place over a two-week period that included thousands of miles of on-track driving and on-street evaluation, along with several days of walk-around appraisals.

"For 2006, the Civic underwent the most radical transformation in its 33-year history," said John Mendel, senior vice president of American Honda. "It is a cornerstone of the Honda lineup, and we're delighted that Motor Trend has recognized the new levels of styling, performance, technology, safety and value that characterize the new Civic. Customers have validated our direction too, as evidenced by strong sales of the new model."

Cheers to Arnel, Tin Tin, Sheryl and Carla!

* * *

My gratitude goes to Volvo top honcho Albert Arcilla for inviting me to the Volvo Golf Championship Pro-Am on Dec. 7 in Bangkok. I feel honored and I must say I'm also deeply flattered.

I had to decline the invitation, though, in lieu of the ongoing 23rd SEA Games, in which I'm now deeply involved with. The Games will end on Dec. 5 and, in the evening of that day, I'll motor immediately to Baguio to link up with Anthony de Leon, the affable general manager of the Baguio Country Club. You see, I am also part of the ongoing Fil-Am Golf championship (ending Dec. 10) in the company of Taby "Insan" Tabaniag, Butch Brodette and Jake Ayson in the tournament's rules committee.

As always, Arcilla, the amiable lawyer-president of Viking Cars (exclusive distributor of Volvo in the Philippines), understood and for which I am again relieved no end.

Thanks, Albert.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Walk more and you'll gas up less.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

AGREEMENT SIGNING
Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya (center), Seaoil Philippines Inc. president Glenn Francis Yu (left) and Automobile Association Philippines director Jose Armando Eduque (right) recently signed an agreement, supporting the government's alternative fuels program through the use of bioethanol and biodiesel in all motorsports activities in the country. The AAP, as the FIA-affiliated auto club governing motorsport events, will make available race tracks for tests on vehicles using alternative fuels, provide test vehicles for the conduct of R&D of new alternative fuels and assist the DoE's information, education and communication campaign on alternative fuels.

Picanto a very competitive car

WHEN KIA MOTORS UNVEILED ITS brand-new supermini Picanto at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September last year, it was looking to offer a competitive entry-level A-segment model for the first time in Europe. Little did anyone know that it would immediately take the European continent by storm.

Over the course of the year since its introduction to the European market, the overwhelmingly popular Picanto has been selected as the No. 1 supermini offering in group tests conducted by leading automotive publications across the region.

On top of the pack

Among all group tests, the UK's Autocar presented the most competition for the Picanto, with 10 total cars reviewed. Yet, the Picanto came out on top of the pack for being "a car that has been built with kit and quality that—pound for pound—rivals a Mercedes S Class."

In Austria, Alles Auto pitted the Picanto against the Hyundai Getz, Fiat Panda, Renault Twingo and Smart Fourtwo. The Picanto edged out the Hyundai Getz for the first place, as it was the most fun car of the group to drive.

Auto Bild of Germany put the Picanto, Fiat Panda and Daihatsu Cuore to the test, with the Picanto left standing in the winner circle, thanks to its good braking, fun-driving performance, value and equipment levels, and precise power steering, among other credentials.

The Netherlands' "AutoWeek" praised the Picanto as a spicy and comfortable car, and was the clear winner, with its good driving capabilities and plenty of space. Competitors in the group test were the Hyundai Atos and Suzuki Alto.

According to France's Auto Plus, the Picanto 1.1 EX came out ahead of the Renault Twingo 1.2 16V Expression. Road testers liked Picanto's "neo retro" styling, high-quality and well-designed interior as well as generous equipment levels. They also found Picanto very enjoyable to drive.

Very competitive car

In Portugal, Autohoje put the Picanto 1.1 EX to the test against the Fiat Panda 1.1 Active and Atos Prime 1.1 Style V. Lauded as a very competitive car with excellent equipment levels and a good quality finish, the Picanto came out on top once again.

Spain's Car & Driver found the Picanto to feature "the best and most attractive interior, while it is well-finished and without vibration. The price, product and performance are competitive in terms of engine, transmission, performance, and fuel consumption." Car & Driver pitted the Picanto 1.1 EX against the Fiat Panda 1.2 Dynamic, Hyundai Atos Prime 1.1 GLS, and Daewoo Matiz 1.0 SE.

In another test by a leading Spanish automotive publication, AutoPista, the Picanto 1.1 stole the show from the Tata Indica 1.4, thanks to its engine and good driving performance as well as interior, safety features and value.

All in all, the Kia Picanto has enjoyed a near sweep of the European supermini group tests so far, taking place in eight out of nine evaluations.

PICANTO

DURING one of the latest motoring media challenge, the Honda Jazz VTEC competition is fun to watch but nerve-racking to be in.

Love being last!

From page B2-1

cording to her, "first-time racers." Great, I said to myself, another opportunity to chase after the ball of thread with the kittens.

To my dismay, when I arrived at the Subic Raceway on Nov. 26, there were no meowing neophytes around. All I could see were veteran race and rallye drivers—people I saw only in helmets and on TV during international races. Gosh, I balked, I've walked into a den of hungry lions, and I was this skinny gladiator who would have to fend them all off using a barbecue stick for a sword and a paper plate for a shield.

And the granddaddy of the pack, legendary Pocholo Ramirez, along with the rest of the Ramirez clan, were present. This wouldn't be a fight. It would be a massacre.

Thankfully, the TRS team didn't put me in the front act. I was able to watch some professional, albeit sloppy, racing on the redesigned track.

Finally, it was my turn to race. In the list that included me were a certain Francisco Blanco, a Colombian who had been in numerous drag races in Colombia and the United States and who happens to be a popular tuner, Matteo Guidicelli, the Philippines karter of the year for 2004; Ken Boren, who earlier grabbed the fastest lap times in several heats; VJ Nodalo, TRS Top Driver Challenge winner and son of former national rally champ Paeng Nodalo, and Aaron Uy and Jiffy Chua—all podium finishers.

Fear factor

"Back out, back out!" This was what a voice inside me whispered loudly, almost to a scream. My vision of a podium finish was by now light years away. As I nervously settled in my seat and pushed the helmet down my head, I was ready to lose, heck, I was even ready to finish dead last. My greatest fear now was: what if I made a spectacle of myself and blocked all the other racers.

The last thing I wanted to become was a hapless tortoise in a mad rush of hares. JP Tuason snapped me out of my fear, however, as he said, "You have to experience how it is to actually race to learn. There's nothing shameful about it." He added that what would be shameful are the professional racers who disrespected fellow racers by deliberately bumping them out of position just to climb up the podium. And we saw a lot of that during the earlier runs.

A large sticker bearing my name was placed on race car No. 9. My own name on a racing car. Wow. Had I arrived even before starting the race? My frayed nerves seemed to answer no. So nervous was I that I had to ask JP to ride with me during my races. And he obliged, and he would be correcting my mistakes on the fly. Talk about hands-on, real-time teacher-student interaction.

After three races, my body and psyche could handle only so much. So, in my last race, as I exited at the pits, as the commentator announced that car No. 9 was exiting the race, I could distinctly hear a pair of hands clapping for me. And when I looked around I could see that those hands belonged to the parents of Ken and Pia Boren and Matteo Guidicelli. As I smiled back to them, I couldn't help thinking that they must have been so relieved that a potential hazardous obstacle had been removed from the race. Oh, come on, said my paranoid voice-in-my-head. Give me a break. The folks know courage when they see one.

As I said earlier, being an in-betweener sucks. I finished dead last in these races, but this was probably the greatest race day of my life.

OFF TO THE CITY OF PINES !

Montero versus The Mountain

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

BAGUIO CITY—ANY DRIVE UP North is a good test of a vehicle's overall package. Several of a vehicle's features must work concertedly to produce an enjoyable and amusing drive. The 2005 Mitsubishi Montero would be the vehicle used for this extended test session, and I would not be honest if I was not worried about how the vehicle would cope with the varied driving conditions of this particular road trip.

Three very distinct types of roads would have to be soundly tackled in order to give the turbo diesel truck at least a passing grade. While this truck has its definite strengths, the long road to Baguio would be a good environment to find the vehicle's true balance and value.

Just outside the hassle and chaos of Metro Manila's road network is the North Luzon Expressway. It is very obvious what facet must come into play for a run up the immaculately paved tarmac to prove satisfactory. Drivers familiar with the Montero's 2.8-liter 4M40 turbo diesel will probably have mixed responses with regards its ability to blast down blacktop with gusto.

The ace up the Mitsubishi's sleeve is that this particular truck came sans the respectable, but rather stifling, auto box that it is normally spec'ed with. In its place was a five-speed manual transmission that proved to be well spaced and made good use of the effective, but ultimately fine power band of the engine.

Montero's inherent torque

The North Expressway's legal speed limit of 100 kph will hardly make most modern cars break a sweat, but composure at speed is something that is not a given for all makes and models. The Montero is capable of cruising, surefooted, at 130 kph and the factory claims that this truck will still make the dash all the way past 160.

It is the Montero's inherent torque that helps overcome the limit of the vehicle's stated horsepower. In the proper gear, acceleration can be had with the slightest tip of the throttle, but not the sort of grunt that will make the Montero capable of playing with cars plying the highway at speeds closer to 200 kph. Not that there were any at the time, of course.

While the ability to hover comfortably about the legal speed limit is key, many drives will surely continue beyond the controlled environment of the Expressway and spill onto the dicey b-roads (barangay roads) that can be found after the exits. Three critical systems play significant roles in any stint on these roads with a single lane in each direction. The aforementioned engine does well in the 50- to 110-kph range, making overtaking less of a nuisance and rooster tails a reality on short dusty gravel sections.

The brakes, while obviously boosted, give enough positive feedback when the pads meet the rotors; deceleration can still be modulated to some extent if needed. While Montero's suspension is all truck, it is not as dedicated for off-road excursions as a pickup or a keen mud-pit racer. Poise is still displayed in proper amounts even when executing quick, down-shifting overtakes.

Unofficial highlight

The approach via Kennon Road is the unofficial highlight of any drive to the summer capital. This is a critical section of road where the more discreet but nonetheless important facets of a vehicle succeed or fail to verify their worth. The upright seating arrangement provides an excellent field of vision, without taking the driver out of the critical optimum driving position.

The gearshift, while not anywhere near a rifle-bolt's crispness, is a snappier example of a five-speed stick shift mated to a diesel 4x4. Most critical to the Montero's success in the twisty mountain roads is the sensation of chassis balance not associated with many of the SUV genre. This relative steadiness in the face of reducing radius turns and rough, cambered near U-turns is what ultimately puts the smile on your face when at the wheel of this Mitsubishi.

All in all, the Montero has delivered a respectable and rather interesting driving experience, aided in no small part by the addition of a manual gearbox to the equation. What more can you ask of a truck that pulls pretty profusely and can tiptoe through the twisty bits with more than a little talent? If your answer is a large displacement V8 with a slush box, you are missing the point entirely. Where in heaven's name is the fun in that?

Mazda Makati opens

MAZDA PHILIPPINES IS NOW IN the country's premier business district with the recently launched Makati dealership on Chino Roces Avenue.

Following the resounding success of its first three dealerships, Mazda recently opened its fourth dealership to showcase its high performance and stylish vehicles and to make its excellent after-sales service more accessible to the Makati business and fashionable set.

Edmund Yee, Mazda Makati principal dealer, warmly welcomed its valued guests, customers and media friends to the grand opening.

Superior customer service

Said Mazda Philippines managing director Gerry Alejandro: "I believe that Mazda Makati will be the business and financial community's main source of excellent vehicles as well as our renowned service lineup. This is in line with our commitment to provide superior customer service wherever they may be in Metro Manila."

According to Alejandro, the Makati dealership is also proof of Mazda's aggressive stance and accelerated growth in the highly competitive automotive market.

4 vehicles

Since the launch of Mazda in February 2004, it has introduced four vehicles in the Philippine automotive market: the sporty Mazda6, the powerful Mazda Tribute, and the stylish Mazda3 sedan and five-door. These vehicles have drawn excellent testimonials from consumers and have received a lot of positive reviews from members of the media and various motoring groups.

"We assure our customers that Mazda Makati will be fully committed to Mazda's zoom-zoom philosophy in providing responsive service delivery and fast customer satisfaction," said Yee.

The Mazda Makati dealership is located at 2723 Chino Roces corner Sabio St., Kayamanan B,. Makati City.

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Going bananas over Focus Sport

By Tessa R. Salazar

MOTOR RACING IN Subic isn't necessarily limited to the newly designed Subic International Raceway. Just a few weeks ago, the Tuason Racing School team had been tapped by Ford Philippines to run the media rally experience at a designed route on the paved back roads of the Subic Naval Base.

Ford Philippines wanted to recreate an authentic tarmac rallye experience for the motoring media using the Ford Focus Sport. To make this experience truly authentic, a "special stage" was used.

The special stage is the area where cars are released one-by-one, in specific time intervals. Not aimed at outracing each other, the run was intended to get the best possible time. TRS chose an authentic special stage in what is known as the tarmac stage for the Rally ng Pilipinas called the Idess.

5-km run

The Idess is a 5-km run on a tarmac surface and on rolling elevations. The width of the circuit is good enough for one car and is bordered on both sides by tall grass. The circuit requires precision, driving consistency and speed.

The World Rally Championship also runs these tarmac stages similar to the Idess. For this event in Subic, TRS and Ford attempted to get as close to a real rally stage as possible.

Though it wasn't the exact WRC version of Focus, the one used here was considered representative of the culmination of Ford's rally and racing heritage, the backbone of the company's motor sports activity since 1999. What made this production Focus a WRC heritage was its body shell and other exterior parts of the car. The lines and the coupé-like stance of the 5-door models provide the perfect base for the 2006 Focus RS WRC Concept.

The usual heckling among motoring media racers was noticeably absent, given the TRS team members' constant reminders of the inherent dangers of the course.

More tangible dangers

For this writer, racing through courses outside the Subic Raceway presented more tangible dangers to the area's resident monkeys. Thus, deep inside, she prayed that no monkey nor any other living thing resembling one, would decide to just suddenly cross the road this day.

TRS race officers reminded participants of the pylons marking off dangerous spots. But what if the monkeys stole them, I thought. What if those cute little scoundrels thought they were party hats and put them on their heads and run off with them, or worse, put them on the road where drivers could be thrown off? Oh, those monkeys could be nasty.

Thankfully, all my fears were unfounded. Because the pylons didn't resemble bananas or peanuts (or anything edible for that matter), they remained untouched. And perhaps because all the monkeys were indoors doing something more pleasurable than crossing the road, we didn't see even a shadow of them. Okay, maybe a tail or two, but that was it.

And the drivers themselves didn't monkey around. The Ford Focus was too seriously powerful to toy around with. Though it was fun to drive, the new-generation Ford Focus 2.0 kept its four wheels firmly planted on tarmac when and where it mattered. Though some frowned a bit when they learned they would be driving A/Ts and not be in total control of the gearshifts, that apprehension soon melted away as the Focus disappeared into the forest covers of Subic.

The monkey's verdict on the Ford Focus Sport? Fun-loving drivers would definitely go bananas over this new toy.

FORD created a very fast profile at the rear, which allows the 5-door to look believable as a coupé as well as being a full-value 5 seater.

Go-kart race for a cause

By Tessa R. Salazar

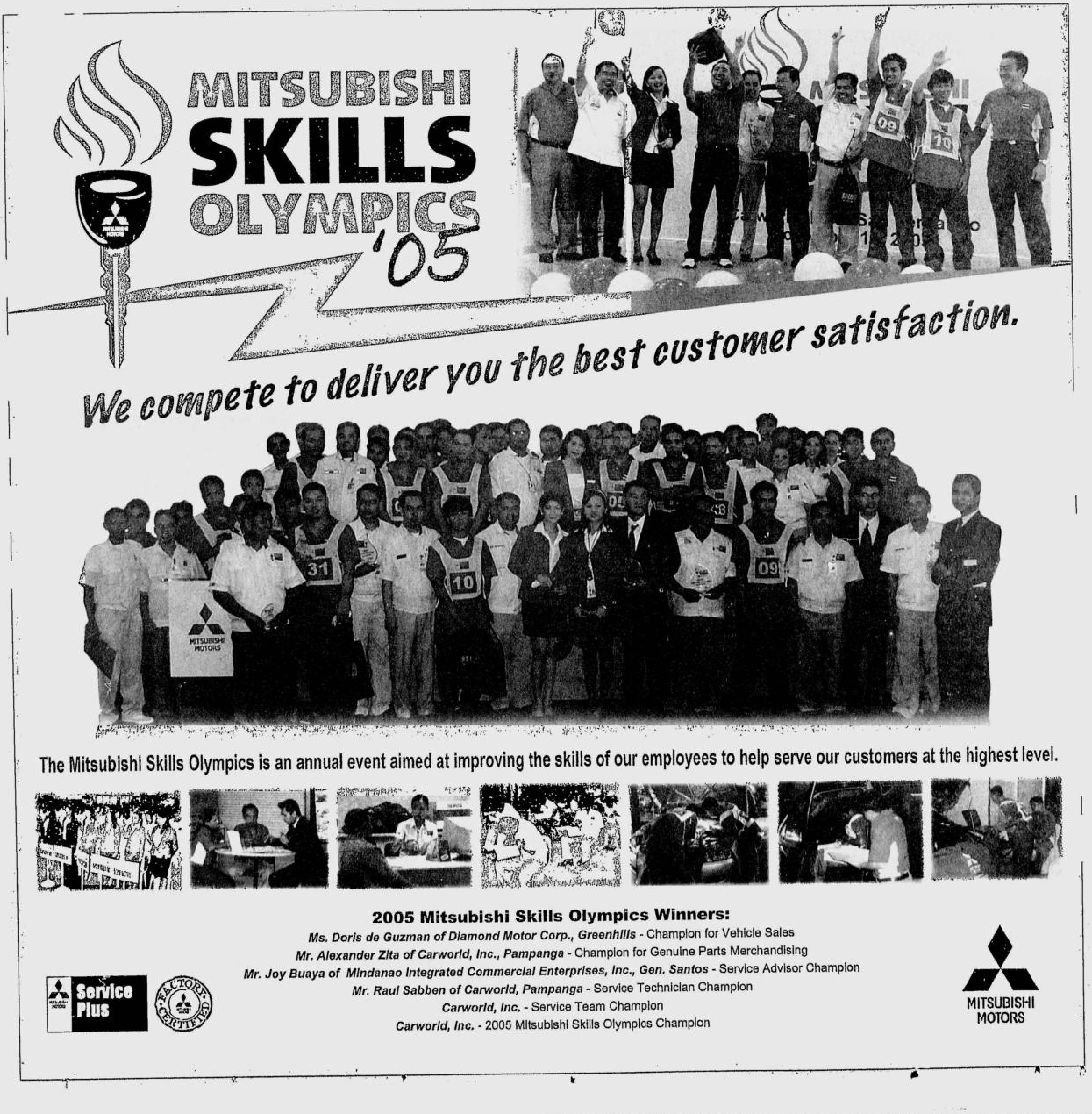
THIS RACING EVENT WASN'T just about remembering a father.

When the Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup began six years ago, it became a charity event providing funds for street children that needed basic medical operations for physical conditions such as cleft palate, club foot, cross eyes, and harelips. The beneficiary foundation is the US-founded Mabuhay Deseret. For every P1 donated, its American counterpart gives P1, too.

The Tuason Memorial Cup honors racing legend Arthur Tuason—the father of JP and Mike—both winning racers of their own generation and now instructors of the Tuason Racing School. The go-kart was chosen as the race vehicle because it attracted more participants and was less expensive to run.

During the entire ATMC run, everything is provided for at the Speedzone: the go-kart, the track and the safety equipment. Because of the Speedzone's proximity, participation and awareness has been easy to generate. According to JP Tuason, this year is so far the biggest for ATMC in terms of funds raised, with a total of P200,000 cash given to charity.

The ATMC memorial cup helped 45 children last year. This year, according to JP, some 70 kids will benefit.



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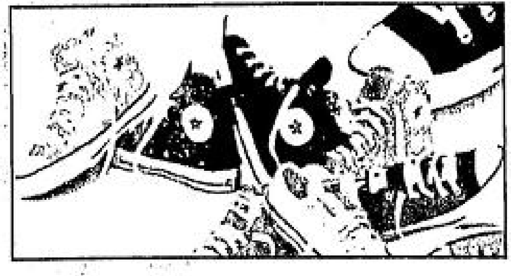


YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE

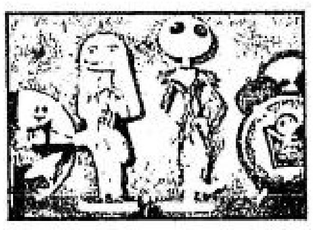
We all have to face one big hurdle before we start singing carols—buying Christmas gifts for everyone we love.

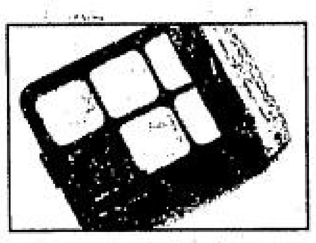
We know it's not easy playing Santa, so we've put together a Christmas gift guide to help you get through the shopping frenzy. We combed your favorite malls, tracked down some of our beloved young designers and found gifts worthy of a spot under the Christmas tree.

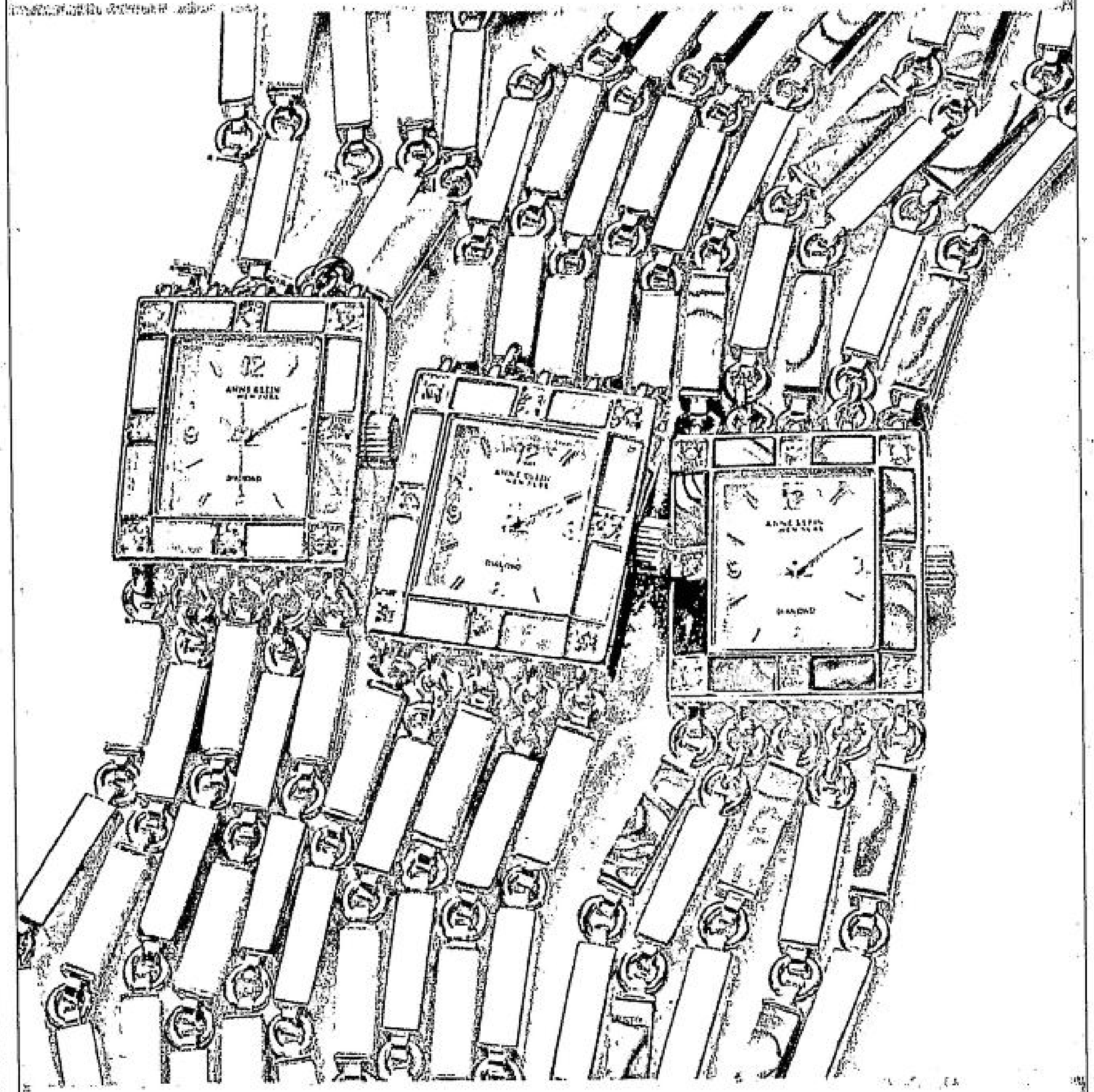
Find out which category your loved ones belong to and choose from our suggestions. We have gifts for video game fanatics, people who are stuck in the '80s, couch potatoes, techheads, corporate slaves, the good and the goth, the adventurous, the romantics and more.

Whip out your list and start taking notes. . .

Happy shopping!



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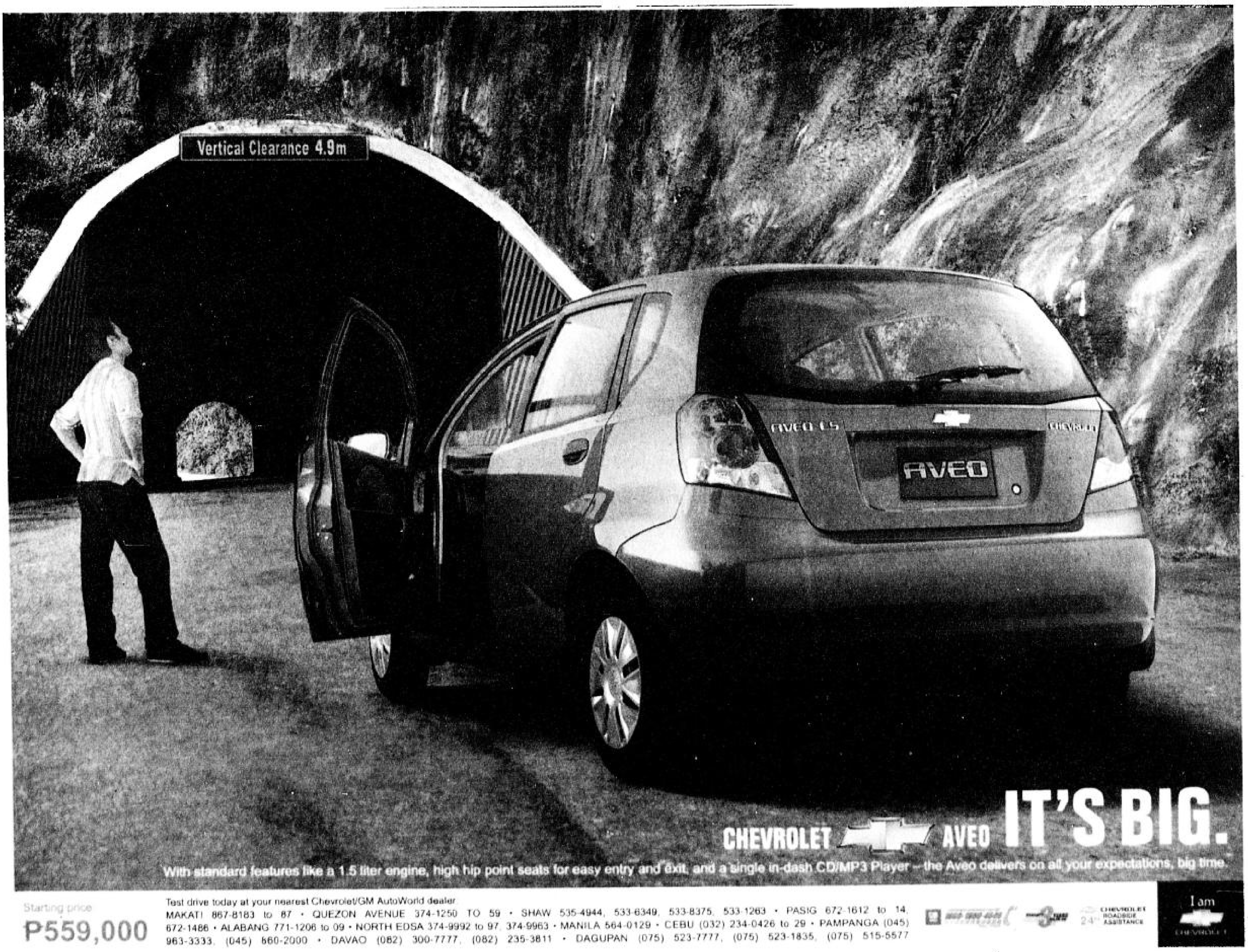
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AGE of Empires III

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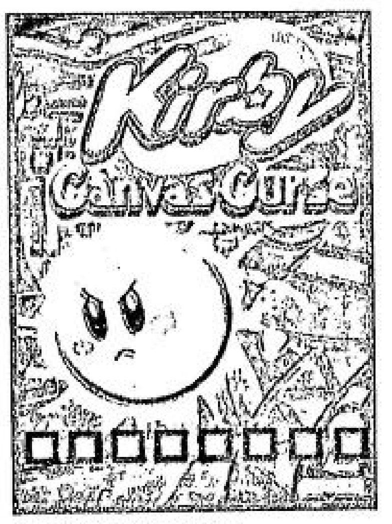

KIRBY Canvas Curse

SOUL Calibur 3

XBOX 360

Gifts for geeks

By Javier Mata
2bU! Correspondent

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ALWAYS SEES A slew of good video games coming out. Parents and girlfriends alike have been dreading these quintessential gifts for any male aged 6-35, since they now have to compete with electronic goodies for their son's/boyfriend's attention.

Nevertheless, for anyone wanting to give a guy (or grrl, as female gamers like to call themselves) something close to their hearts (and thumbs), here are some things worth checking out.

XBOX 360

The first of the next-generation consoles to be released, this monster features a lot more than simply gameplay. The box's hard drive itself allows you to rip CDs and also transfer music, videos and photos from your MP3 player or other USB devices.

It also features backwards compatibility with your old XBOX, so you can still play your classic games on the new system. It provides a connection to XBOX Live, Microsoft's online gameplay services, which is said to to be even better than before.

What of the games? Take your pick: Perfect Dark Zero, Call of Duty 2, Project Gotham Racing, and the-soon-to-arrive Halo 3 (that game alone deserves the purchase of the system).

For those who find the price to steep ($400), a cheaper version which includes the basic console itself with peripherals can be bought at $300, though this one is missing the hard drive and with it most of the cool features. Believe me, the drive is worth more than the extra $100.

Sid Meir's Civilization IV

System: PC

Sid Meir's turn-based classic is back, but this sequel really does the franchise justice. Running a civilization has never been more fun, fast and easy with its all-new interface.

Plus: There's online multi-player, and it actually works! Fans who loved the series will seriously get hooked on this one, and newer players will get immersed in the intricacies of running the fate of the world, from dealing with barbarian invasions in the past to political alliances in the middle ages to researching new arms and technologies in the modern age.

Buy this game for an intellectual gamer, and watch him twist reality and history. How about destroying Washington D.C. or recreating Italy into the "United States of Rome," with an emperor as head in the year 2000?

Age of Empires III

System: PC

If Civilization IV allows the more cerebral of us to run a nation, then Age of Empires allows the more militaristic side of us to change history. It may not be anything new (pretty standard RTS game), but the graphics, gameplay and even the music of this title are absolutely wondrous. Nothing comes close to it in quality. Plus, the built-in online staging area—with buddy lists, chat, ladders, stats and more—is a model multi-player interface.

We love Katamari

System: PS2

This is the sequel to one of the quirkiest games to date. Nothing in recent memory can compare with the premise of rolling up a ball of junk (anything actually, from paper clips and cups to trees and cars, even sumo wrestlers) and turning it into a star as original—and downright weird. Fans of cute, Japanese-style design will love this title, and more hard-core players will love its addictive gameplay. Even your girlfriend will love this title for its simplicity and hallucinatory cuteness.

Here are some hot electronic goodies worth checking out

Soul Calibur III

System: PS2

This third game in the Soul Calibur series (and fifth in the entire Soul saga, if you're counting) is the ultimate fighting game this season. Boasting of new fighters and the ability to create a fighter, this latest installation will surely satisfy fans who haven't seen a decent fighting game appear in recent months. It should provide plenty of red-eyed mornings throughout the vacation breaks.

Kirby's Canvas Curse

System: Nintendo DS

A pink puffball doesn't exactly give us the image of a hero. Nevertheless, that is what Kirby is, and he has proven to be a lot of fun for people to let out the kid inside.

Unlike previous Kirby games, this sequel tests not just your game skills but your drawing talents as well. Using the innovative stylus of the Nintendo DS, you "draw" pathways and platforms to help Kirby roll along the way. It is more entertaining than you might think, and those of us who aren't afraid to show a fondness for the color pink are in for a fun game.

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From 1-31 December, celebrate a "Magical Christmas" at Hong Kong Disneyland. A snowcapped wonderland of holiday cheer awaits you! The huge Christmas tree with lighting ceremony every night and Disney friends in cozy Christmas costumes will also spread the magic all around the park. The festive spirit continues with Ocean Park Christmas Sensation from 17 December to 2 January, where you'll find a merry little surprise specially prepared by Santa. Don't forget to treat the whole family to the city's sumptuous international cuisine and take advantage of the countless winter sales.

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DEAN Francis Alfar

Pinoy ingenuity behind Korean online game sensation

A LITTLE KNOWN FACT IS THAT Filipino writers are the ones crafting the exciting stories that will unfold next year in RF Online, the first massive multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) which has become a craze in the Philippines.

The new MMORPG blockbuster from Korea presents a galactic setting wherein three racial groups—the Empire of Accretia, the Bellato Federation, and the Holy Alliance of Cora—each with equally devastating power and weaponry, are at war with each other for dominance of the universe.

From these three races the gamers will choose which to join and fight for, with their individual and collective performance determining how this adventure saga will develop and end.

The stunning and suspenseful stories from the interstellar conflict are conceived and written by a team of Filipino writers led by Dean Francis Alfar, novelist, fictionist, playwright, eight-time Palanca awardee, and founder of the content development firm, Kestrel IMC.

"Our aim is to create story arcs that players can appreciate and get into. Since our game is experienced by three races, we developed stories that star each race in turn and amplify the very core of the RF Online playing experience. Our master storyline for the first year involves the secret origins of the races over a series of startling revelations and adventures," Alfar explains.

"The story must serve the game, of course, and create opportunities for players to be involved in the outcome of events. Part of our strategy is to create situations where the actions of players determine the path of the story."

Well-rounded characters

The stories developed by Alfar's group reinforce the nature and character of each of the races.

The Accretians have turned themselves into cyborgs to attain physical superiority, whereas the Bellatos are a fiercely independent race of inventors who combine creative tools and weapons with the light form of universal magic called Force. The Corites tap ambient force to acquire superhuman strength and manipulate the Dark Force to teleport people and equipment.

Those who want to join any of the three races may visit their websites—www.accretia.ph of the Empire of Accretia, www.bellato.ph of the Bellato Federation, and www.cora.ph of the Holy Alliance of Cora. Players may visit www.rfonline.ph for registration. The game has come online since Nov. 18.

The three warring races were all developed in Korea, but it was Alfar's group together with the RF Business Unit that decided on the final naming conventions.

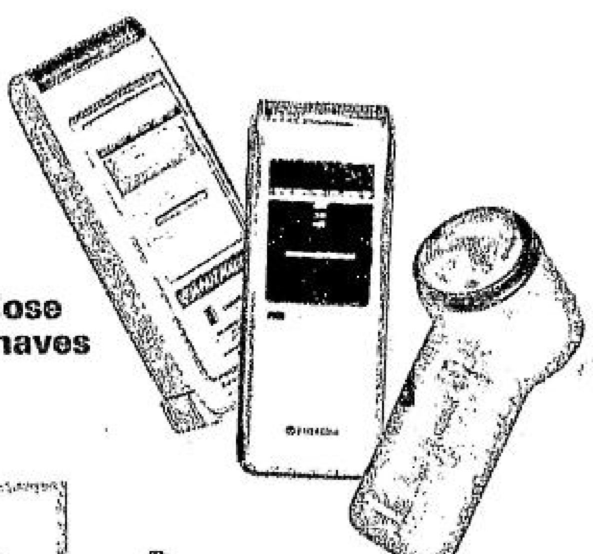
Much of Alfar's work involves interweaving the three races along the main plot through various points of conflict and racial characterization.

With all their many differences, it is their common consistency with human logic and adherence to their racial character—as dramatized in Alfar's stories—that make RF Online a captivating and thrilling personal experience.

"In the context of a game, we can explore aspects of the human condition such as loyalty, duty, evolution and cultural development without losing sight of the fact that this immersive game is first and foremost an engaging way to exercise the imagination," says Alfar.

we've got all the

GIFTS



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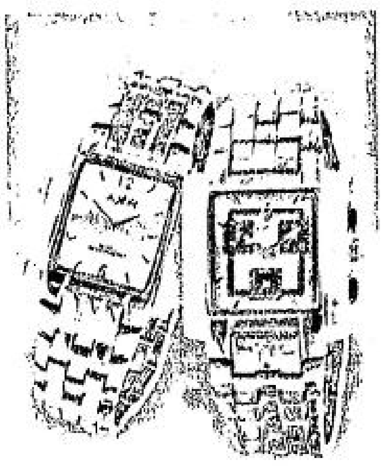

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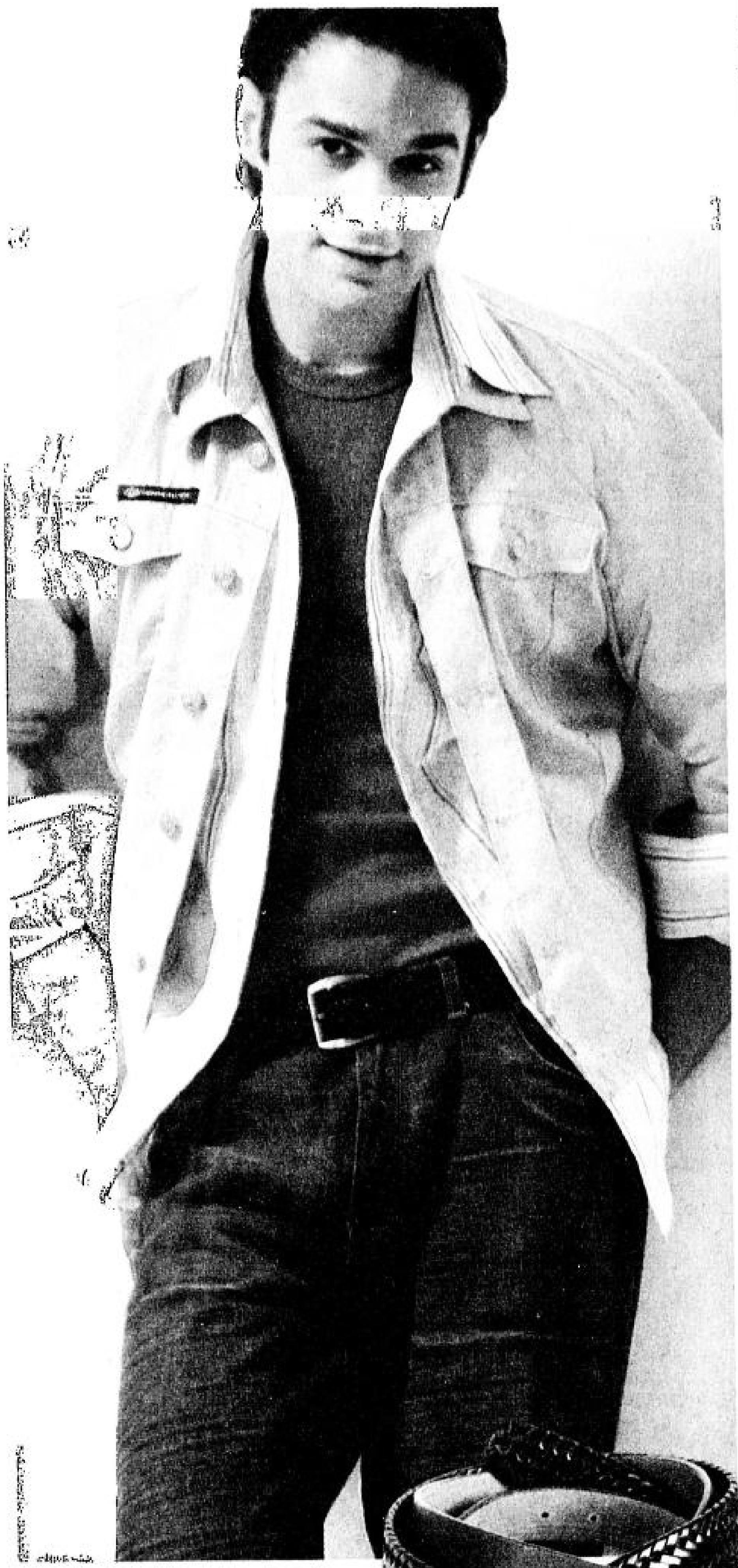

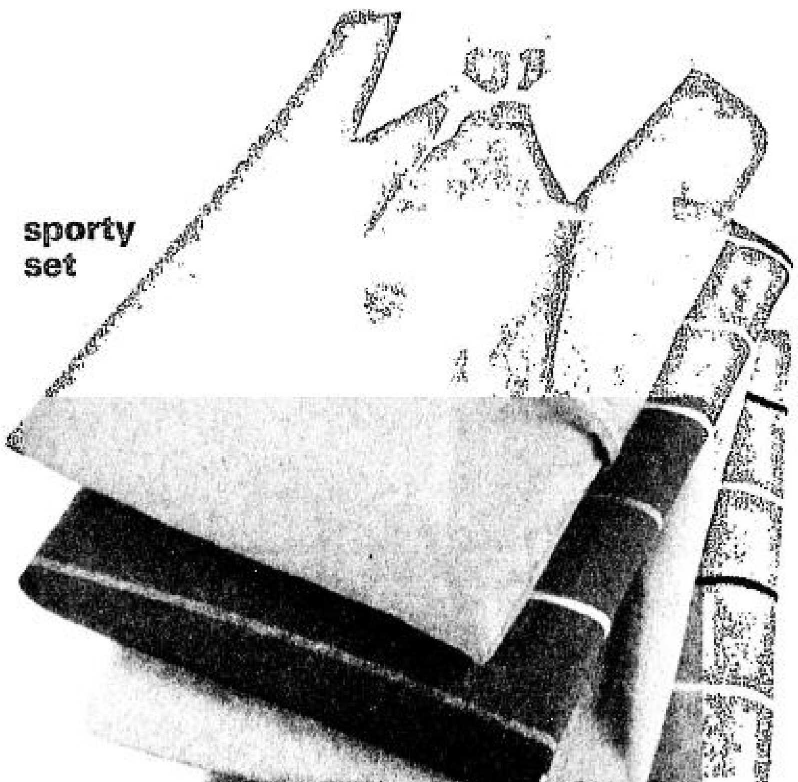

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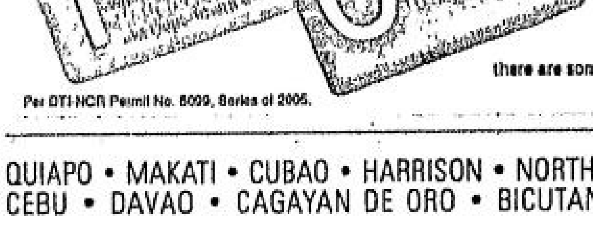

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GlobeQUEST TAPS G-CASH FUNCTIONALITIES FOR G-POS RETAIL PLATFORM

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, has collaborated with Globe G-Cash, the country's first cashless and cardless m-commerce service, and Ripple E-Business International to develop an all-in-one solution that will facilitate the acceptance of G-Cash as an alternative form of payment in local retail outlets.

Dubbed as G-POS, the system enables GlobeQUEST Store Express customers to seamlessly integrate their current POS (Point-of-Sale) system with the G-Cash open platform. This allows customers to make essential G-Cash transactions like merchant payment, bills payment, cash and m-currency conversions, and AutoloadMAX reloads without the use of a cellular phone.

Through G-POS, retailers automatically become G-Cash merchant partners and can gain access to the nearly 14 million Globe and TM subscriber base.

G-Cash is being increasingly recognized as a powerful platform for micro-payments and entrepreneurship, thereby, providing retailers an alternative payment scheme for the customers.

At present, G-Cash has more than 1 million registered users and nearly 4,000 partners and outlets locally and worldwide.

With the collaboration of G-Cash and GlobeQUEST Store Express, customers would get to enjoy a higher level of service and ultimately, a fulfilling shopping experience.

GlobeQUEST Store Express is a solution specifically designed to address the various connectivity requirements of the retail industry and to meet both the network and IT requirements of any retail company.

It was designed to help companies with several branches in different locations monitor sales and keep track of inventory in real time. This service helps companies stay on top of their operations by keeping them up-to-date on what's happening in their outlets.

With its branches connected in real time, a retail company gets reliable and fast access to data and other information that would help it improves its business productivity and efficiency.

GlobeQUEST Store Express combines access or transmission methods with a number of value-added services to provide a total solution to companies that operate retail chains. It provides retailers the flexibility to choose and mix the access methods and value-added services suitable to their operations.

There are three types of private access methods being offered by GlobeQUEST: StoreExpress on Demand for retailers that require dial-up connection to periodically transmit reports, Store Express Online for those that demand reliable access at broadband speeds, and Store Express Premium for companies that need guaranteed real-time connectivity to transmit data, voice and video over their private network.

To complement the fast connections, Store Express also provides several value-added services that would match the needs of retailers such as Internet access, web and emailing hosting, business continuity and recovery service, managed customer premises equipment, remote video monitoring, POS software and hardware bundles in partnership with IBM Philippines and Continuum Technology Corporation, as well as hosted SMS and mobile solutions.

GlobeQUEST Store Express would greatly benefit retail companies operating food and non-food chains, department stores, ticketing outlets, supermarkets, bookstores, pawnshops, and remittance centers among others.

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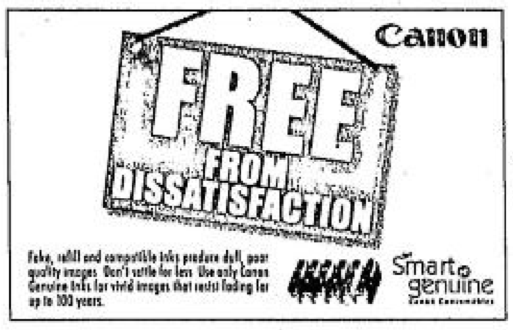
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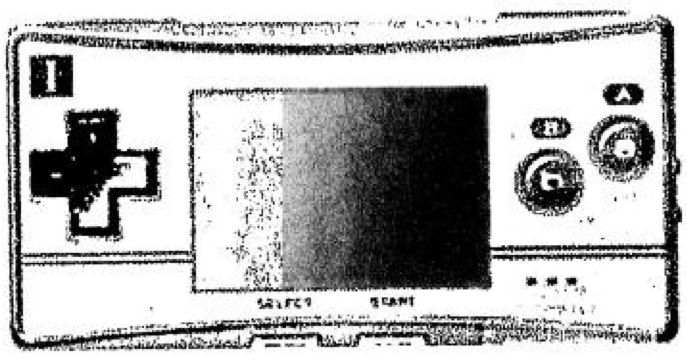
GAMEBOY

Relive the decade full of experimentation, playfulness and rebellion

For the ultimate '80s kid

Text and Photos by Ces Cabangon
2bU! Correspondent

GROWING UP COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE fun than in the 1980s—the decade that brought us Madonna, The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, The Princess Bride, Transformers, MTV, rubix cube, video and arcade games, and so much more crazy things.

Back then, most of us whined through the bad hair spray, thick shoulder pads and tight neon leggings. A decade or two later, we are proud to have survived them, and are coming to terms with the bittersweet nostalgia of it all.

It was a decade full of experimentation, playfulness and rebellion. However, people did not take themselves too seriously to the point of murder. Anyone could be silly and get away with it.

It comes as no surprise, then, that many people are still hung up over the '80s. Here are some things you can give him or her.

A Tribute To Pop Culture shirts—Pinoy-style

One must be proud of one's roots and generation. These shirts are meant to be flaunted as they scream from afar, highlighting one's Bagets status, Hulk Hogan loyalty or Darna fixation. In stock at Happy Days stall in Red Lane Glorietta and Alabang Festival Mall (P250 to P325).

RETRO bags from Artwork

VINTAGE-LOOKING shirts from Artwork

Retro bags

Artwork's bags are awash with character and vision. The designs are unique, featuring prints of iconic figures and funky art. Artwork's main branch is located in Glorietta (P349.75 to P499.75).

Patchwork skirt

This piece of clothing is distinctly '80s and is a statement in itself. Available at Defect, Glorietta (P850).

Vintage shirts

Artwork's vintage collection embodies the spirit of free expression, feisty experimenta-

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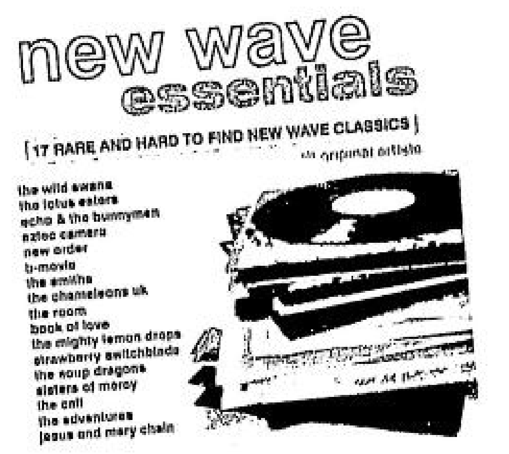
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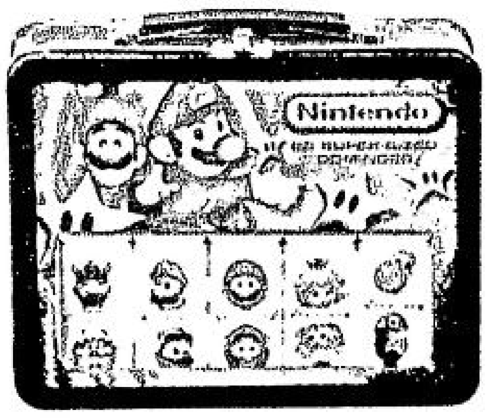

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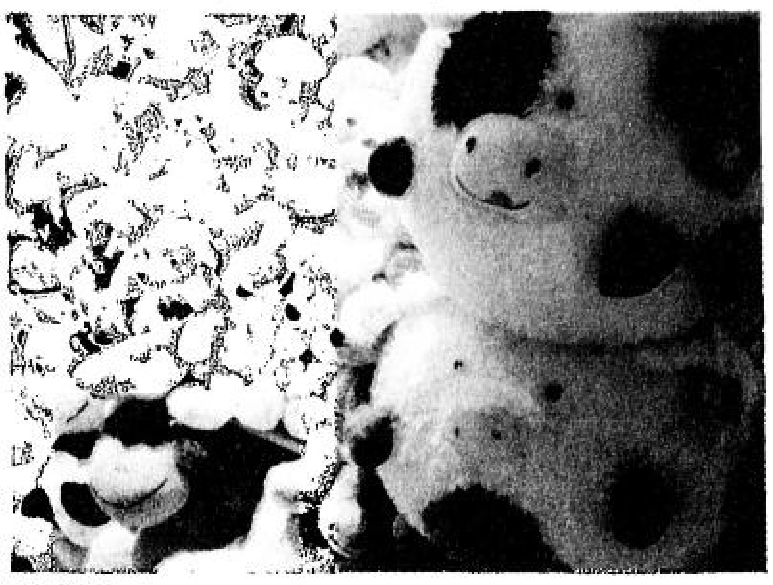
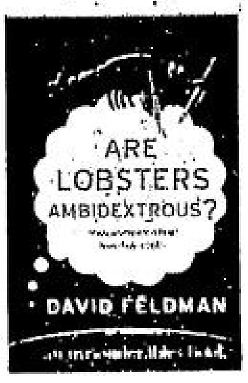
FOR "SEX and the City" fans

SOPRANOS addicts will love this.

CSI BOARD game



GIFT factory



Couch potatoes, rejoice!

A list that does not come cheap, for the slacker dude in the house

COBY DVD

POPCORN maker

Text and photos by Ces Cabangon
2bU! Correspondent

COUCH POTATO IS NOT JUST A slang term to throw around, but a lifestyle. Its symptoms include:

a. Hibernation

b. Eating meals in front of the TV set instead of the dining table

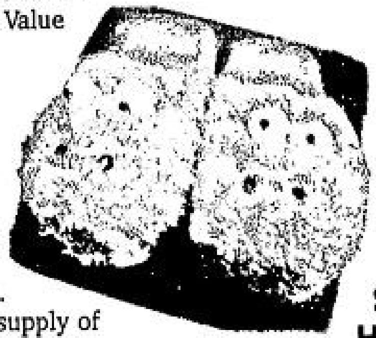
c. A memory bank of 24-hour food delivery numbers

d. Remarkable concentration for movie/TV marathons

From one worn La-Z boy to another, couch potatoes the world over boast of having all the time in the world and all the energy to spare. For him (or her) who has no other responsibility than to patronize cable TV, here's a list that does not come cheap.

Popcorn maker

Delivery can take a while, and microwave can burn. Pop perfect batches of corn kernels every time with convenient and easy-to-use popcorn makers. Puts the fun in midnight munching. At True Value stores (P899)



TV-inspired Trivia Board Games

"The Sopranos," "Sex and the City," "Desperate Housewives," "CSI"—Brush up on social skills and test your worthiness to be called a fan. Hobbes at Greenbelt has a supply of these games (P1,730-P2,895).

Stuffed toys

The perfect companion to drag along to a cinematic adventure. After all, a stuffed toy can never complain. Endure nerve-wracking suspense and hair-raising terrors with these huggable creatures. At The Gift Factory in Glorietta (P99.75-P995)

Fuzzy slippers

These slippers will encourage one to walk around more and get some much-needed exercise. At The Gift Factory in Glorietta (P475)

Sennheiser Wireless Headphones

With a range of 100 m, these headphones can be brought to any part of the house without one missing a soap opera line. At the SM Appliance Center (P4,995-P13,995)

Portable DVD and MP3 Player

Lure the couch potato away from the TV set and into the car. This item silences excuses for missed road trips and whining about being too far from the comforting radiation vibes of a screen. SM Appliance Center carries Coby and Sansui players (P10,995-P15,990)

David Feldman's 'Are Lobsters Ambidextrous?'

Everyday mysteries like "Why do quarterbacks say Hut?" are explored in this book. Mull over a number of things encyclopedias, dictionaries and almanacs don't cover. At selected National Bookstore branches (P625)

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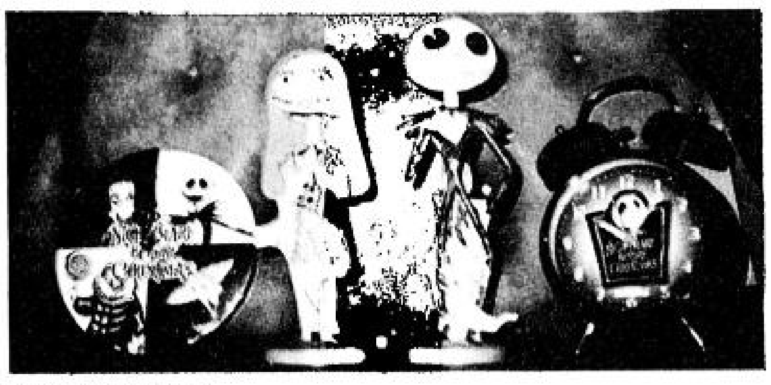


GOTH collectibles

Gift guide for the Goth at heart

By Ces Cabangon
2bU! Correspondent

GOTHS ARE STEREOTYPED often as depressed, angsty, gloom-and-doom sort of people. Usually they are depicted as people with heavy makeup, dominantly black clothes and pained facial expression.

TAROT cards

Unknown to many, there are different types of Goths: Romantic Goths, Perky Goths, Cyber Goths, Punk Goths, Traditional Goths.

One does not have to wear black day after day to be a Goth. People join the Goth subculture for different reasons. They may be drawn to its art, literature, Victorian history, music or fashion.

This gift guide is for those who find beauty, consolation and meaning in the Goth darkness and embrace it.

"Nightmare Before Christmas" figurines and alarm clock. Start off the morning with a scream from Jack Skellington. An altar of these figurines brings the Halloween spirit right in the sanctuary of one's room.

Black Strawberry, Glorietta, from P900 to P1,000.

Dave Hontiveros' Penumbra novels. These books can be devoured in one sitting, with no particular reading order. The author's powerful writing captures the reader in a tight grip as it explores various themes in the realm of horror and dark fantasy. The dark humor, eloquent narrative and amusing social commentaries make these novels a bloody delicious read.

Available at National Bookstore, PowerBooks, and Fully Booked; P120 each.

Tarot Cards. Delve into the mystical arts and unlock powers of the unconscious. Tarot decks vary from the more traditional Rider Waite pack, to the more eclectic such as The Egyptian Tarot, The Buddha Tarot, The Celtic Tarot, and Gothic Tarot of Vampires. Fully Booked carries more choices to sort through with decks from P830 to P2,195.

Emily the Strange and "Nightmare Before Christmas" bags and accessories.

Let the rebel inside loose with pins, hair clips, wallets, bags and watches that express diversity, humor and witticisms of a darker blend.

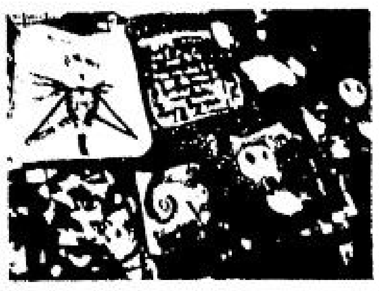
Check out Iba 'Di Ba? stalls at Robinsons Galleria, Alabang Town Center, Tiendesitas Libis, and Greenbelt. They have a number of items with prices ranging from P10 to P1,100.

Role Playing Games from White Wolf's World of Darkness. Be a werewolf, a mage or a vampire and discover delights the darkness has to offer.

Comic Quest carries rpg starter decks and rpg guide books from P1,800 and up.

The Simpsons' Treehouse of Horror Monopoly Board Game.

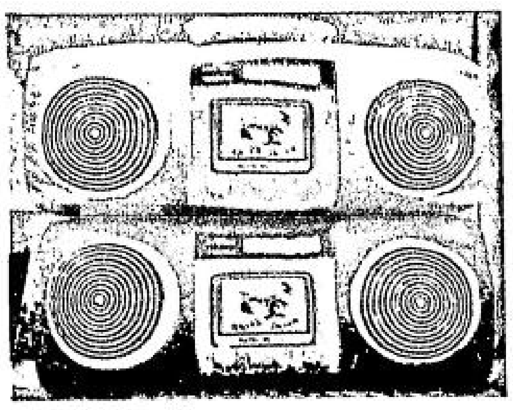
Monopoly has never been more evil and wickedly fun. Dig this at Hobbes Greenbelt 3; P2,960.



"NIGHTMARE Before Christmas" bags

TV games

SHIRTS in a row



BOOMBOX pillows

POP Culture shirts

For the ultimate '80s kid

From page D1

tion and classic nostalgia. There are shirts for everyone, in eye-catching prints and colors (P399 to P469).

Converse Chuck Taylor shoes

This shoe has always been close to the heart of individualists, and is now back with a vengeance. (P1,650 to P 2,950).

Nintendo 28 Supersized Dominoes

Suddenly, playing dominoes isn't so archaic anymore. Packaged in a tin-can lunch box with an all-star cast of Mario, Luigi, Yoshi and Donkey Kong, this domino pack sets the über-cool player apart from the others. Available at Hobbes Greenbelt 3 (P1,700).

Boombox Pillow

This is one boombox no one would mind lugging around. Grab this at Chameleon, U/L Greenbelt Shopping Arcade (P360).

GameBoy Micro

The latest addition to the Gameboy family resembles the Game&Watch toys we were once nuts about. And get a load of this: It's compatible with all GameBoy Advance games and shares all SP features (P5,950).

Plug n' Play TV games

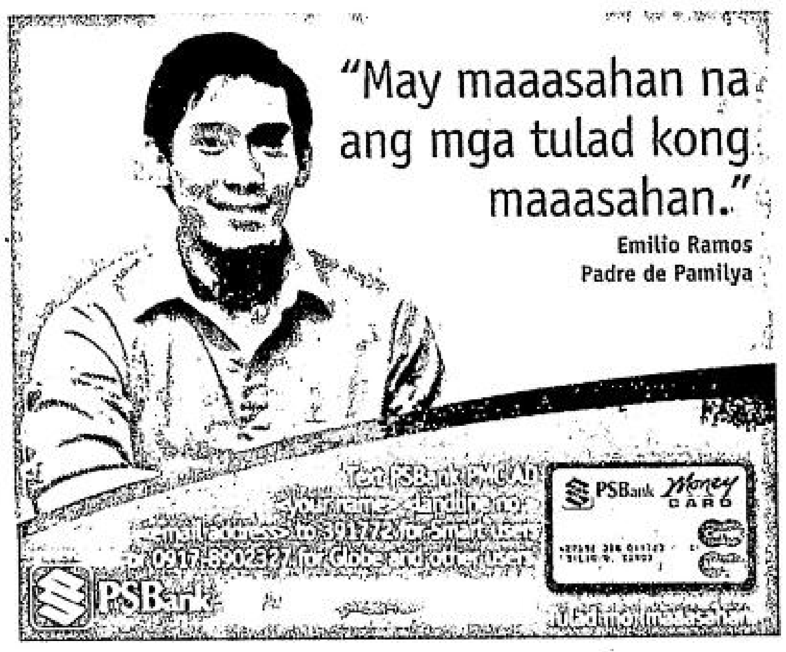
Recapture your Atari days anywhere there's an idiot box. But hold that thought. These games demand the same amount of brain cells you would use to solve Math problems. Available at Kidz Station (P1,299.75 to P1,999.75).

Warner Music's New Wave Essentials CD

This atypical compilation offers tracks from New Order, Strawberry Switchblade, Echo & the Bunnymen, The Smiths, The Soup Dragons, Sisters of Mercy and more (P425).

DEFECT skirts

GOOD old Converse



"May maaasahan na ang mga tulad kong maaasahan."
Emilio Ramos
Padre de Pamilya

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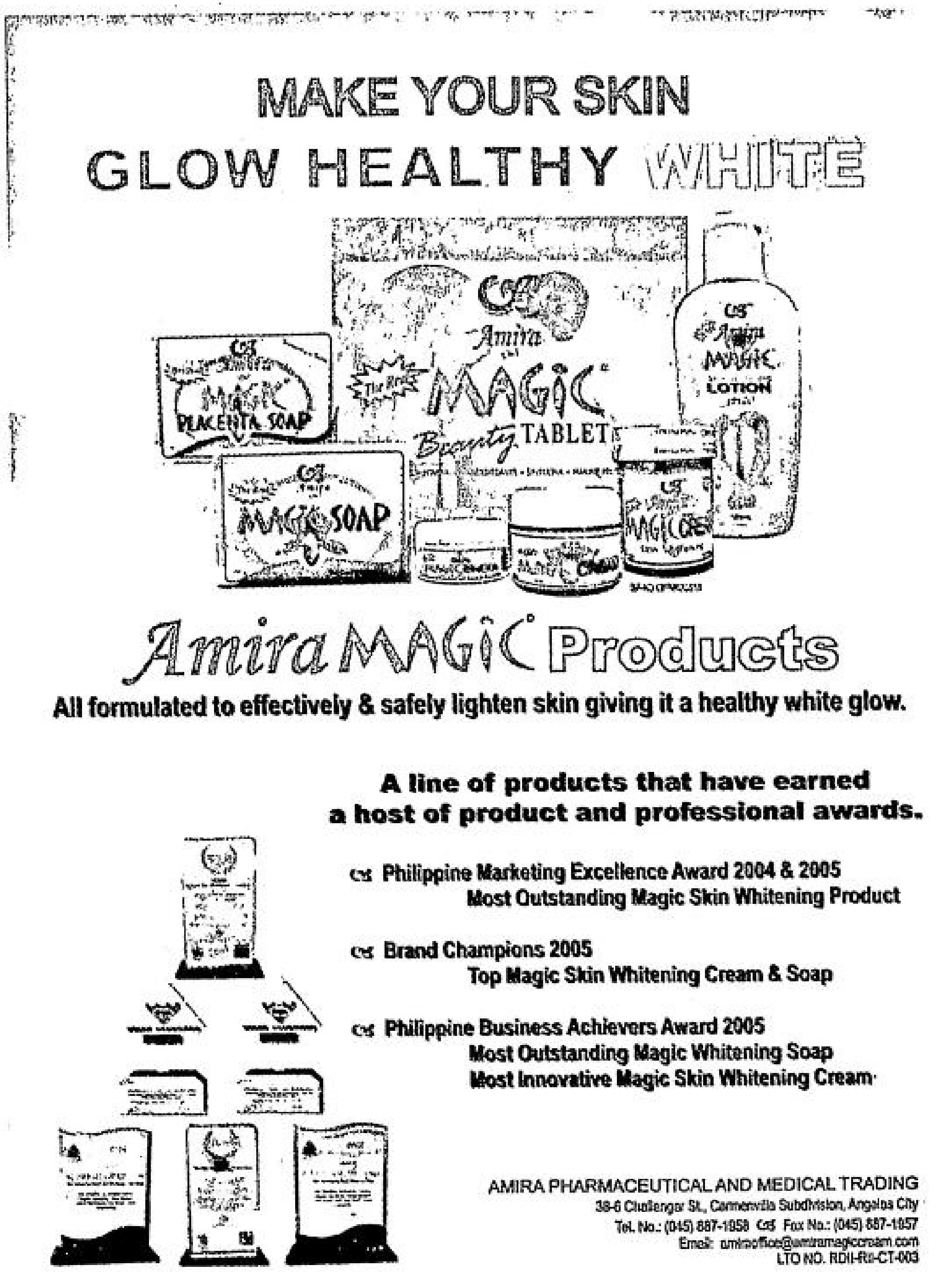

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REVIVING YOUR CHILD'S APPETITE

Loss of appetite among children is a chief cause of worry for parents – but few parents realize how normal this is. It will probably seem like your child doesn't eat enough, is never hungry, or won't eat without extraordinary measures like bribery, cajoling, etc. But as long as your child's energy level is normal and he is growing normally, your child's appetite is most likely slowing down naturally.

What might be the causes?

Children don't always grow constantly; there will be moments in their growth when their weight gain will slow down. Because they are not growing as fast, they need less calories and they seem to have a poorer appetite (this is called physiological anorexia). How much a child chooses to eat is controlled by the appetite center in the brain. Kids eat as much as they need for growth and energy.

Other reasons can include stress or pressure both at school and at home and even lack of sleep. Poor eating habits (from over-indulgence of junk food) are another cause.

Forced feedings sometimes have the reverse effect of what the parent intends – so instead of making the child eat more, forced feedings may even further decrease a child's appetite.

What can I do to help my child?

Allow one small snack between meals. The most common reason why some children never seem hungry is that they have so many snacks. Be sure your child arrives at mealtime with an empty stomach. Offer your child no more than 2 small snacks of nutritious food each day, and provide them only if your child requests them.

Remove distractions.

Letting your child watch TV while eating is bad idea. Aside from keeping his mind off food, it promotes poor table manners and social habits. Likewise, it's not a good idea to let your child play during mealtime or even bring toys to the table.

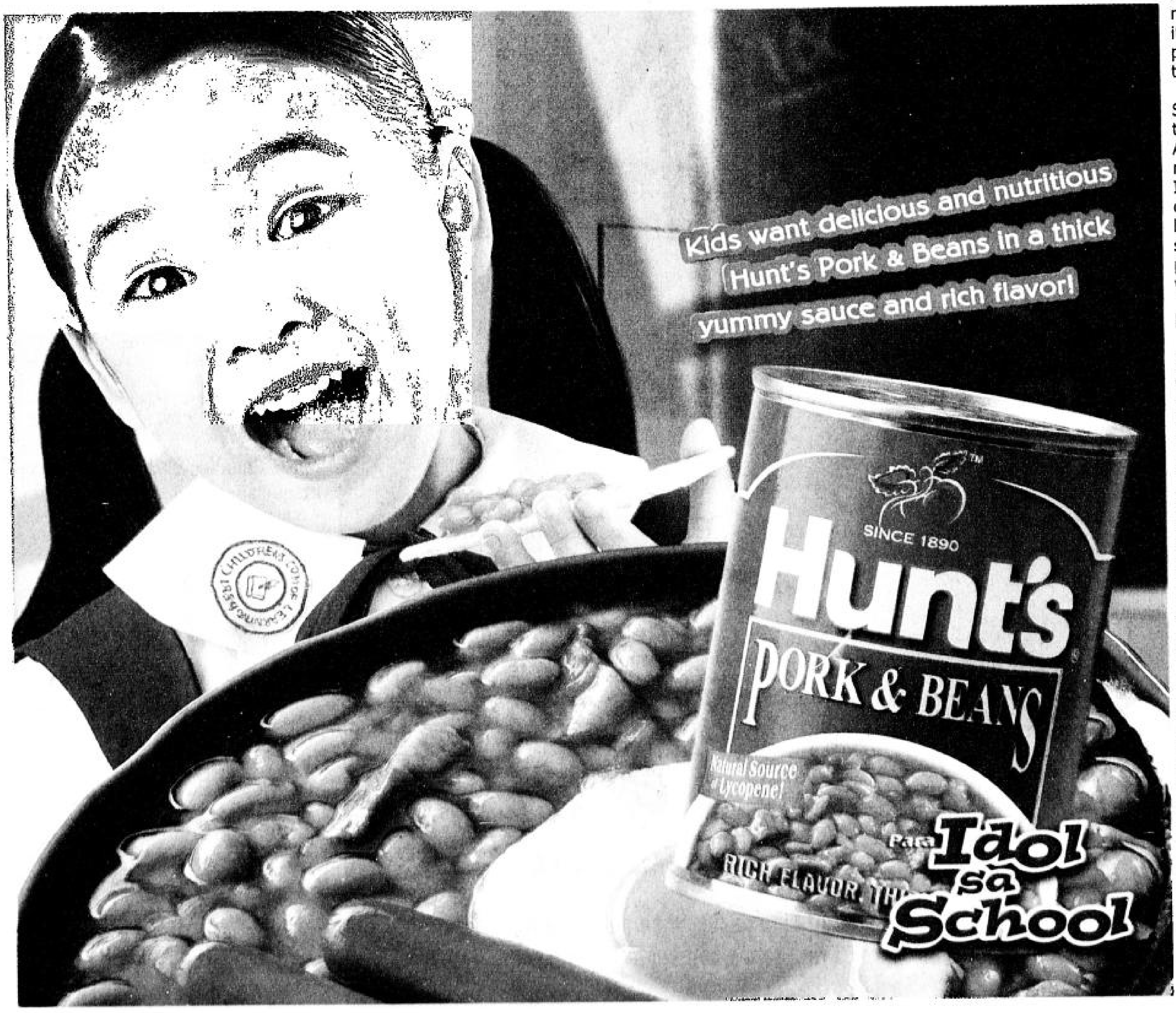
Serve small portions of food – less than you think your child will eat. A child's appetite is decreased if served more food than he could possibly eat. If you serve your child a small amount on a large plate, it is more likely to be finished, with your child gaining a sense of accomplishment in the process. If your child wants more, wait for him to ask for it.

Make mealtimes pleasant.

Draw your children into mealtime conversation. Avoid making mealtimes a time for criticism or struggle over control. Don't discuss how little your child eats in his presence. Trust your child's appetite centre to look after her food needs. Also, don't praise your child for eating a lot. Children should eat to please themselves. Lastly, don't make your child sit at the dinner table after the rest of the family is through eating. This will only cause your child to develop unpleasant feelings about mealtime.

Serve well-balanced meals

Good nutrition isn't always about the quantity of food your child eats. As long as he gets all the nutrition he needs, the amount he actually eats is not important. So choose foods like HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS. It is deliciously packed with all the vital nutrients like magnesium, iron, protein, lycopene, flavonoids and carbohydrates. Hunt's Pork and Beans also goes well with other foods like fried eggs, hotdogs, ham, pork chops and so on, making it so much easier to whet to your child's appetite – and get him to eat more!



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Beauty wisdom of youth

Lora Gabol

SOMETHING HAPPENED during my supposed "debut" as a full-fledged stylist at the Seventeen Favorite Model Search press conference a couple of weeks ago: I stumbled upon my column this week!

Thanks to my partner Sam, I was able to spare some neurons and, thankfully, had my brain functioning well enough to recognize the sheer beauty-column potential of the backstage chaos we were in the middle of!

With nine models around, all in the college level, I uncovered a gold mine of beauty tips and secrets!

Take note that these are ordinary girls who have transformed their looks into something extraordinary. They each have a beauty all their own, and proudly show it off. Take your cue from these Seventeen models—starting with the precious insider info they shared with me, for you!

Esseline Ong

What are your makeup essentials?

MAC eyeshadow, VOV concealer and Fashion 21 blush.

I just love your haircut. Who's your stylist?

I go to Merly of Salon de Manila, Tomas Morato, for my cut and color. Pretty pricey but very worth it. My cut is very low-maintenance; I hardly use product unless I want to flip it out, and it only takes Bench Fix wax to achieve that look.

Geraldine Nethercott

How do you care for your skin?

I just use Pond's facial cleanser and Oil of Olay moisturizer. And I never fail to put lotion on my body—it keeps skin looking young and radiant.

I hear you're a makeup junkie! What are your must-have products and brands?

I definitely have to carry around concealer, blush and lip gloss. I absolutely love Clinique and The Body Shop—the latter is very affordable, too.

Charmaine Castejon

If you were on "Survivor" and had to carry only three beauty products, what would those be?

Just the basics, but those that work. I'd say Philosophy Purity facial wash, Celeteque moisturizer and Burt's Bees Lip Balm.

I'm sure you hit some beauty bumps along the way sometimes. What's the beauty dilemma you most dread?

Breakouts! I make sure I clean my face well, get enough rest and drink lots of water to avoid the zit attacks.

Abbie Almasco

What's in your beauty arsenal? I mean, what products keep you on top of the beauty battle?

Carmex Lip Balm for a kiss-worthy pucker, Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil to sweep off makeup, and Shu Uemura Eyelash curler to enhance my "chinita" eyes and short lashes.

ABBIE Alodia Alducente Almasco

CAMILLE Anne de Castro Cruz

I love your gorgeous curls! Where did you have them done and how do you keep them bouncy and shiny?

I had my hair permed at Bench Fix Salon in Glorietta 4. My secret weapon for lovely curls in Suave shaping mousse. It smells great, and doesn't hurt your wallet!

Sharon Yu

With your active, sporty lifestyle, what products keep you glowing with minimum fuss?

Sunblock to maintain healthy skin, Erythromycin to prevent my facial allergies and pimples, and lip and cheek tint—the easiest makeup to put on!

Your hair is super straight and shiny. What's the secret behind the shampoo commercial-worthy mane?

Of course, there's always the ceramic straightening iron for days when your hair just won't cooperate! But I deep-condition with virgin coconut oil to compensate for styling damage. I also use Pantene Total Care Conditioner everyday.

Isabella Simone Magalona

You have one of the freshest faces I've ever seen. How do you manage to look like that all the time?

I swear by the basics—all I'm really after is a clean face. I always wash my face with a simple facial cleanser, swipe on lip balm and pat on face powder, then I'm out the door!

This could be a long shot, but do you ever feel insecure about the beauty you possess?

It's not really an insecurity, but some people think of me as a "chubby" girl. I don't consider myself overweight at all, though. I eat right and work out not because of what people think, but to stay healthy.

Adrienne Almeda

What three items will we always find in your *kikay* kit?

Shu Uemura Eyelash Curler, because it's the only thing I need to bring out my eyes; bronzer, because I'm not naturally tanned and I just adore the dusky Brazilian glow; and lip gloss, because it instantly livens up my face.

You can pull off your signature shorts with those flawless legs! How do you care for the skin on your body?

I use L'occitane Olive Body Scrub once a week to exfoliate, then use Fruits and Passion Body Cream everyday after showering.

Camille Cruz, Seventeen Favorite Model Search winner

Your makeup-free face doesn't lie—you have blemish-free, clear skin. Any tips on how to achieve that complexion?

I just clean my face really thoroughly, and exfoliate regularly. I love the mildness of Cetaphil, which leaves my skin moisturized as well. Pond's Cleanser and Toner Facial Wash keeps my pores completely clean. I also love St. Ives Apricot Scrub—even on the body!

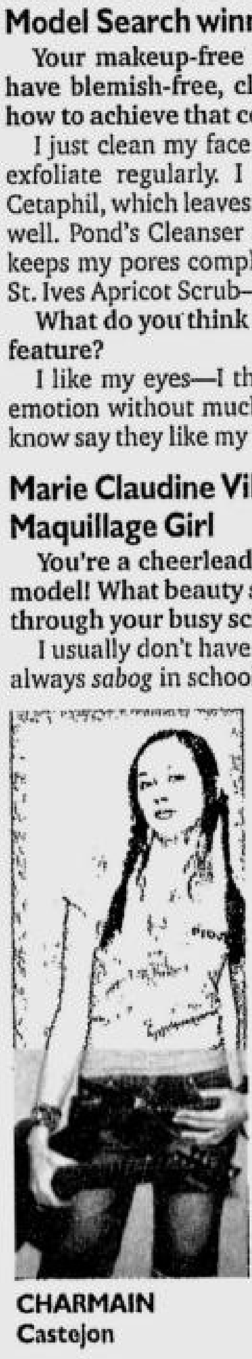
What do you think is your most standout feature?

I like my eyes—I think they express every emotion without much words. Most people I know say they like my legs, though.

Marie Claudine Villacorta, Shiseido Maquillage Girl

You're a cheerleader, student and now a model! What beauty stash do you use to get through your busy schedule?

I usually don't have time for makeup so I'm always *sabog* in school or even before shoots. But other than lip gloss and a great cleanser, I dig eyeliners because they make me feel glamorous.

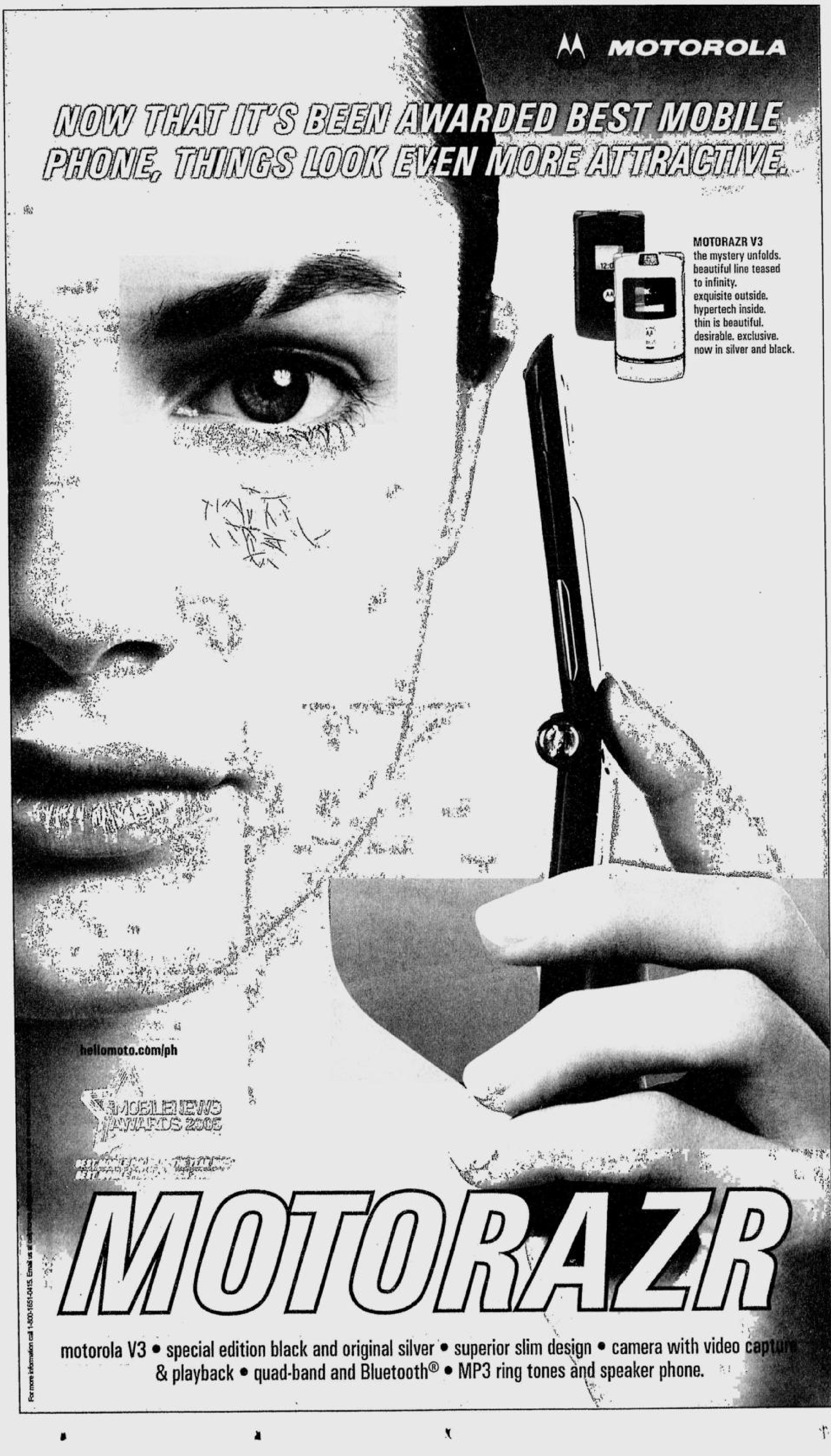


CHARMAIN Castejon

Anything you want to change about the way you look?

I'm very insecure of my muscular arms and legs, so I don't wear skirts so much. But, instead, I smile more, stand tall and feel fabulous no matter what outfit I'm wearing.

E-mail lora_gahol@yahoo.com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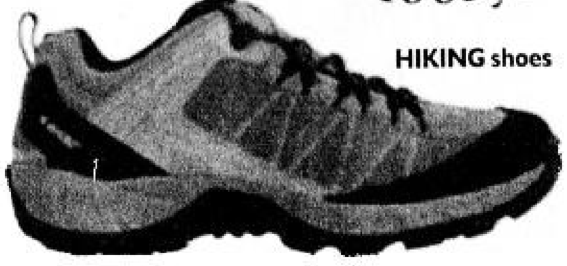
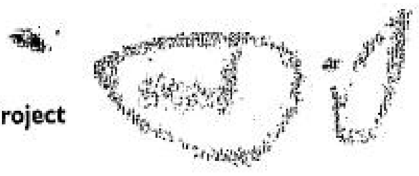

HIKING shoes


RUDY Project shades

Adventure ahead!

Presents for the brave, the foolhardy and the stout-hearted

By Gmeleen Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO someone who's been there and done that? Why, more places to go and more things to do, of course. And the best part is, you can do most of these things together, so it's like giving yourself a little something too.

A hot-air balloon ride

Few people can say they've gone bungee-jumping, but even less can say they've ridden a hot-air balloon. This is one gift your friend will be raving about for the rest of the year. A hot-air balloon ride at Fort Ilocandia will give you a bird's eye view of Ilocos' famous sand dunes and sparkling blue sea, and you won't mind the eight-hour drive to Ilocos Norte. (At P800 per person on weekdays and P1,200 per person on weekends. Call the Fort Ilocandia booking office at 5218032.)

An afternoon of 'Extra Challenge!'

Not everyone can join this top-rating show, but you can climb high ladders, slide down a canopy above a virgin forest and do a high-pole jump at Subic Extreme Adventure Park. Pay P200 per person upwards for each activity.

Hiking shoes

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Start off your friend's voyage with the right pair of hiking shoes. The Hi-Tec Brisa (P2,990, Brat Pack) and the Hi-Tec Multiterra Low (P4,290, Brat Pack) are not only sturdy and comfy, they are also fashionable enough to go from the mountain to the mall.

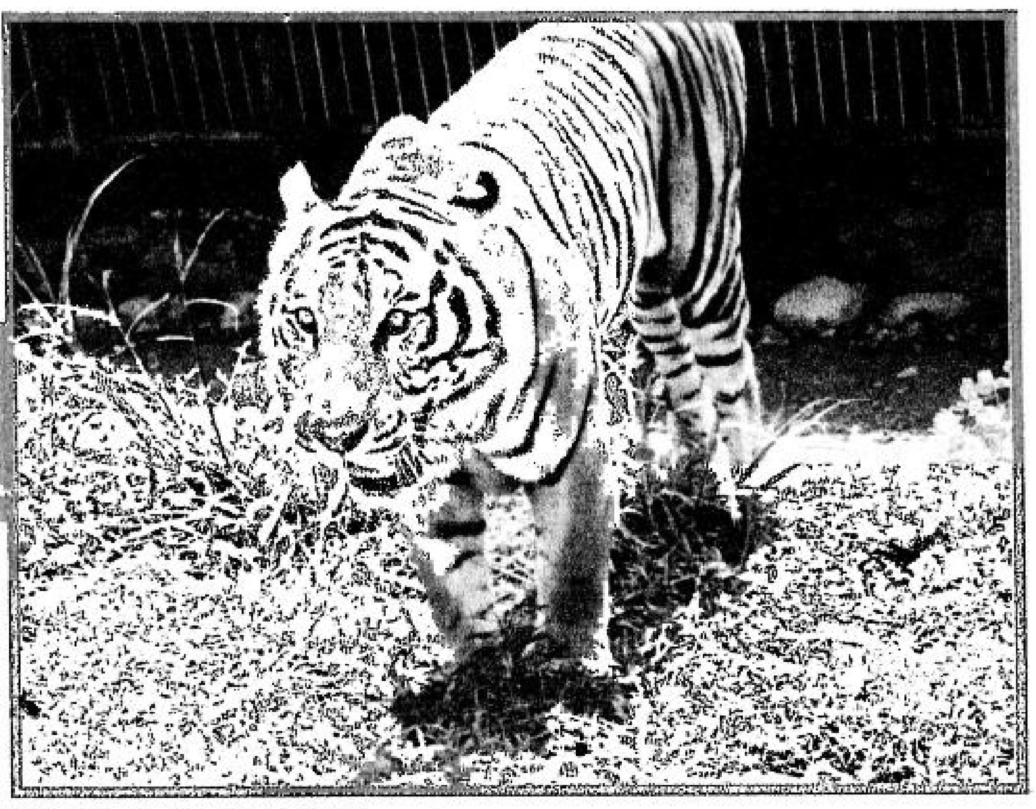
Rudy Project shades

If your sister is going to be climbing up cliffs, she might as well do it in style. Give her Rudy Project shades to complete the extreme adventure look. Throw in an elastic strap for good measure, so your precious gift won't fall into some ravine. Be warned though—style costs money. The cheapest pair retails at P5,400.

Mountain bike

The wanderlust's ultimate companion, a mountain bike will literally take him places. Shell out P2,495 (Toby's) if your brother just plans to cruise along your village roads. Break your piggy bank for models that really climb mountains.

Tiger feeding at Zoobic Safari


FEED a tiger at the Zoobic Safari

Not everyone can get to within an inch of a pouncing tiger. A live chicken dangling from a safari-type jeep at Zoobic Safari in Subic will lure three fully grown tigers to follow your jeep. As the jeep lumbers along, watch the tigers chase and pounce on the jeep. Then while these big cats plunk their humongous paws on the roof of your jeep, watch them devour a live chicken within arm's reach. (But then again, you wouldn't want to stretch out your arm at all.) Entrance fees are P295 per person on weekends, and P395 on weekends.

A road map of the Philippines/ Metro Manila

An adventurous gift need not be pricey. Drop by any convenience store and choose from any of the road maps on display. Outline a route for a cross-country drive, or even just a tour through Metro Manila. Make a theme like "Manila in a Bite" where you show the way to hole-in-the-wall eateries in Chinatown, or "The Great Manila Raid" for out-of-the-way stores like 168 in Divisoria, Bangkal Street in Makati and the Rainbow Bazaar on Buendia Avenue.

Google Earth Plus

If the local scene is too lame for your friend, send him on a world tour. Google Earth is a free program on http://earth.google.com that combines "satellite imagery, maps and the powers of Google Search" so he can type any

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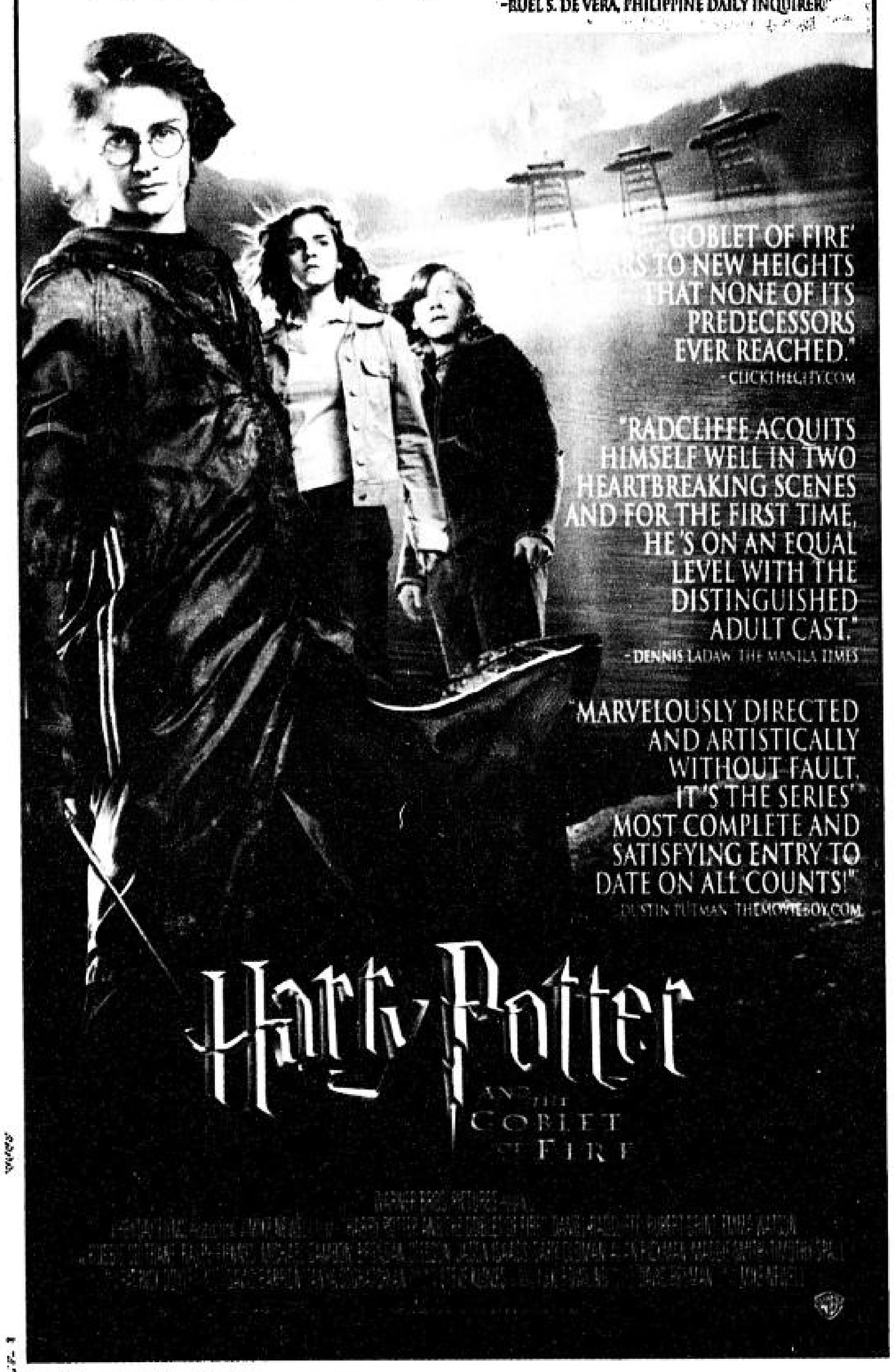

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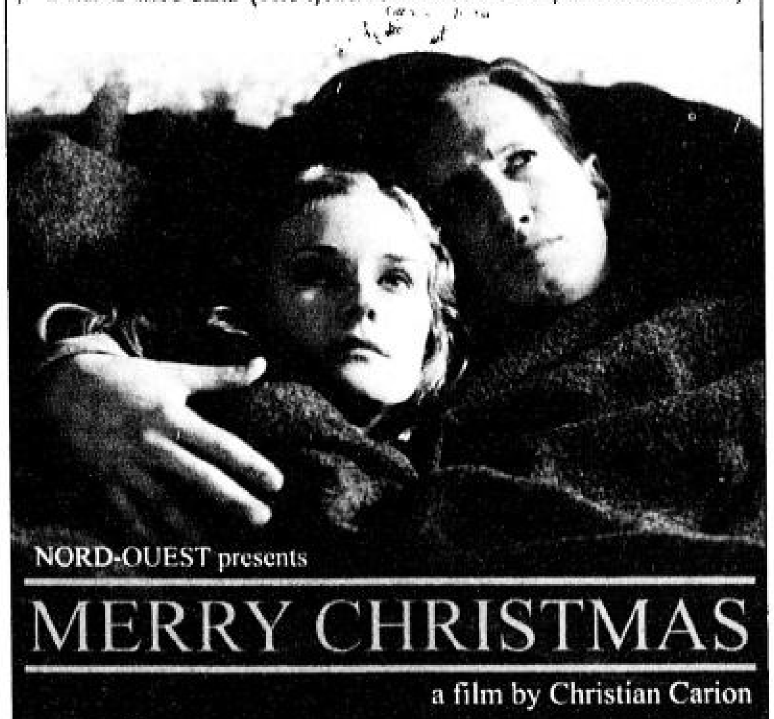

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DIANE KRUGER (TROY, NATIONAL TREASURE, & WICKER PARK)

NORD-OUEST presents
MERRY CHRISTMAS
a film by Christian Carion
BENNO FÜRMANN•GUILLAUME CANET (LOVE ME IF YOU DARE & THE BEACH)
DANIEL BRÜHL (GOODBYE LENIN)•GARY LEWIS(GANGS OF NEW YORK)•DANY BOON
Release thru TMV Films, Int'l. 0918-9103391/0917-8118013 www.joyeuxnoel-lefilm.com

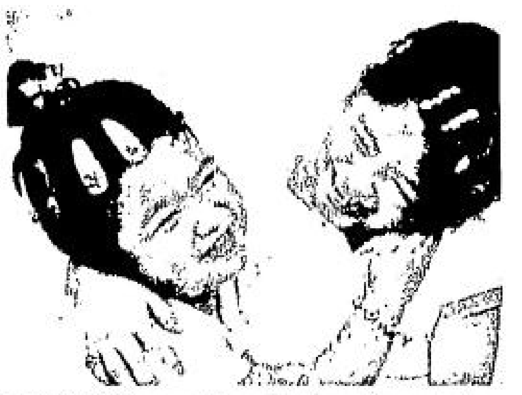
THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR THE SUCCESSFUL ADVANCE SCREENINGS!

11/11/05 PODIUM CINEMA
FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE PHIL.
GERMAN EMBASSY IN THE PHIL.
ALLIANCE FRANCHISE DE MANILLE
BRISTISH COUNCIL PHIL.
GOETHE INSTITUTE MANILA

11/12/05 AFP THEATER PMA CLASS '87
11/13/05 AFP THEATER PMA CLASS '98
11/14/05 SM BICUTAN ECOLE FRANCAISE DE MANILE
DEUTSCHE SCHULE MANILA

11/15/05 GREENBELT CINEMA ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI - POBLACION

11/29/05 SM NORTH CINEMA
PNP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
UNILOADS NETWORKS
UP PSYCA
UP DOST - SA
UP STPA
FORTUNE TOBACCO CORP.



PINKBOX has a wide selection of bracelets, hair accessories and personalized charms.

Tickled pink

LONG BEFORE PINK BECAME THE NEW black in the fashion scene, "Pinkbox," an accessory store, has already made Pink an inspiration for its concept and products.

Pinkbox is a store for girls who never get tired of buying favorite hair accessories such as clips, clamps, barrettes and ponytails. Be charmed as well by Pinkbox's personalized bracelets, cell-phone accessories, key chains and necklaces that come not only in pink but in various other colors and chain accents.

This season, Pinkbox unveils its new product line—the three-in-one wooden necklace that can be worn as a bracelet and as a ponytail. Girls can buy it by piece for a "do-it-yourself" necklace. Get tickled pick with Pinkbox's jelly-like, fruity, bear and piggy hair ponies.

Pinkbox outlets can be found in Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Robinsons Galleria, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, The Podium, Gateway Mall, SM Bicutan, Robinsons Metro East, Ayala Pavillion Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Lipa, Ali Mall, SM Megamall, SM City San Lazaro, SM South Mall.

THREE-IN-ONE wooden necklace can be worn as a bracelet or ponytail.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Wednesday, November 30, 2005

ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM
SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

ALL NEW SERIES
THE APPRENTICE
Martha Stewart
TUESDAY 10PM

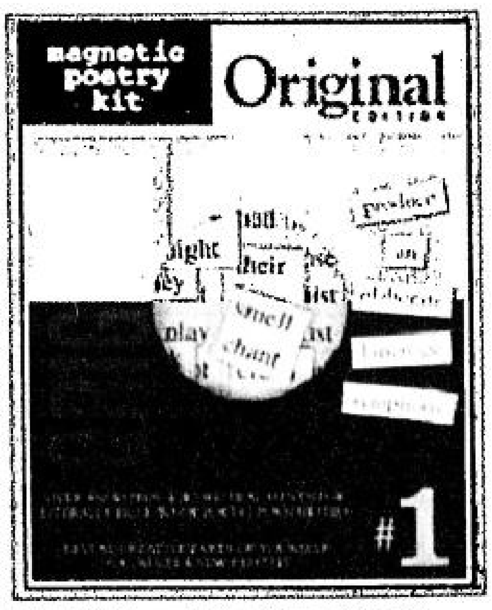
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5									Sentro	2005 South East Asian Games					Big News	2005 South East Asian Games			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	S.O.C.O.			Insider
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Cinema One		Hayop Sa Hayop				Ipagpatawad Mo				Sigaw			Persona	Makusog Sa Diyos (9:15 PM)				Masikip Mainit Paraisong Parisukat	
Cinemax		Cop & 1/2 (3:15 PM)			Another 48 Hrs. (4:45 PM)			Bean (6:15 PM)			Timecop: The Berlin Decision			Hulk				A Perfect World (11:15 PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Riddle Of The Polar Sky		Animal Face-Off		Hyperspace With Sam Neil		Red Queen				The Mythbusters 3		Greatest Motorcycles		Hour Asia	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Figure Skating		ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		2005 WPBA Cyclop Cues U.S. Open 9-Ball		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Committed	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works In Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15 PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romance	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Agency II		Betrayed			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO					Ike Countdown To D-Day			Mothya (6:10 PM)			The Flintstones (Movie)			Disclosure				JFK (11:05PM)	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EZ Shop		Global Family Series		Rayan Umawit (The Concert)				Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		Everest: The Darkside		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Women Of K2		Taboo	
NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Sea Games				Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blue's Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Fight On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes!/ Naturally Sadie/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Viewer's Choice					Jimmy Neutron Special: Win Lose & Kaboom	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Bakit May Kahapon Pa				Sapot				Sa Isang Sulok Ng Pangarap				Dodong Armado		Nagkataon, Nagkatagpo		
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherds Voice	
Solar Sports		Bacchus Bowling		Swatch FIVB World Men's Final Klagenfurt			Phil 8-Ball Open Day2					Sports Desk		Boxing: Klitschko vs. Rahman					NBA Jam
Sports Plus				Big 12 College Football: Texas A&M @ Colorado						NBA Game: Lakers @ Spurs					NBA Game: Orlando @ Chicago				
Star Movies			The Statement				In Enemy Hands			The Touch (7:10 PM)				Hoodlum				Starsky & Hutch (11:10PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	One Time Hit The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Awards		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	One Time Hit The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Award
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

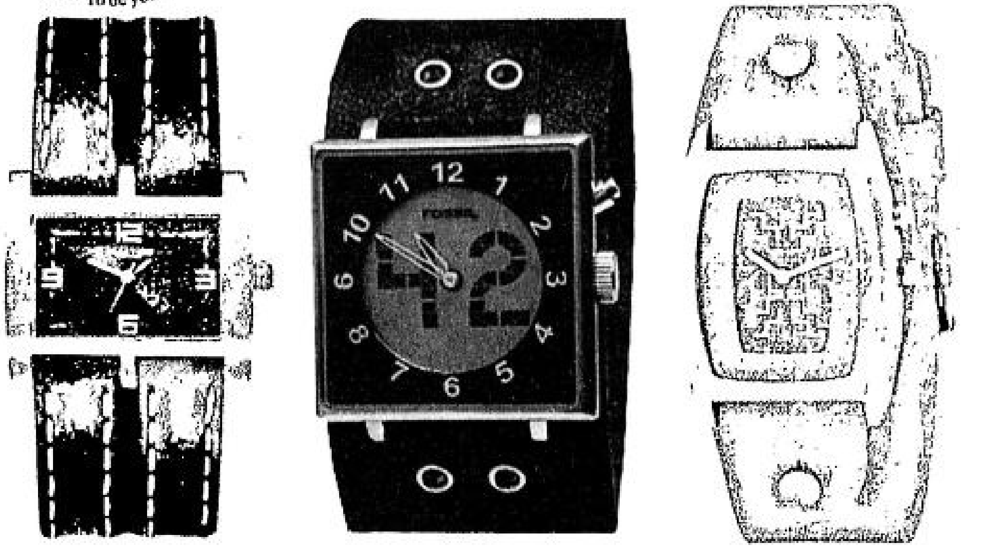
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

POCKET Penguin books



UNLEASH creativity with poetry sets.



HOT WATCHES to mark time

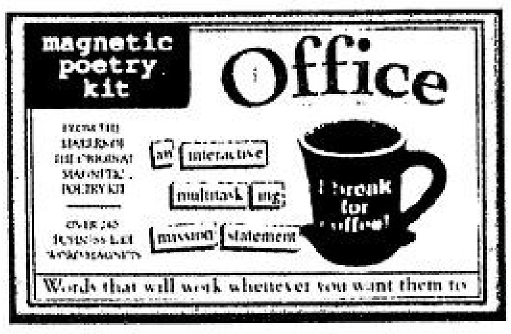
Work and play

Stave off the monotony of the office with these tools and charms

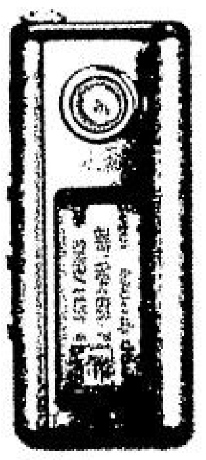
By Ces Cabangon
2bU! Correspondent

NO ONE SAID CORPORATE slavery would be fun. Having to endure the everyday routine of one's job can become mind-numbing.

But with the right tools in hand, the dreariness of one's workspace can be minimized. If Dilbert can find life within the confines of his cubicle, then there is hope for everyone.



MAGNETIC poetry set



MP3 player

Watches from Reaction, Kenneth Cole and Fossil

Counting the minutes until 6 p.m. will be even more exciting with these timepieces, which one can take from the boardroom to the bar with ease and sophistication. (P3,350 to P5,150).

Crumpler gear

Take a load off someone's back with these colorful yet sturdy laptop bags. They can house 12- to 17-inch laptops and all other essentials. At Digital Walker, Park Square 1 (P2,950 to P5,400).

Magnetic poetry kit

Brainstorming has never been more fun and creative! These magnetic words bring out the artist in everyone, even those on a dreary 9-to-5 shift. Expand the basic set with thematic editions from clichés, college to office poetry kits. At Hobbes Greenbelt (P550 to P1,100).

MP3 Players

Drown out the buzzing of drones and worker bees. Tune into music that will get the blood pumping again (P3,000+).

Pocket Penguin

Savor these short masterpieces from literary greats. Collect all 70 booklets (with the coolest book cover designs) at PowerBooks and Fully Booked (P99 to P135).

STURDY laptop bags

Adventure ahead!

From page E1

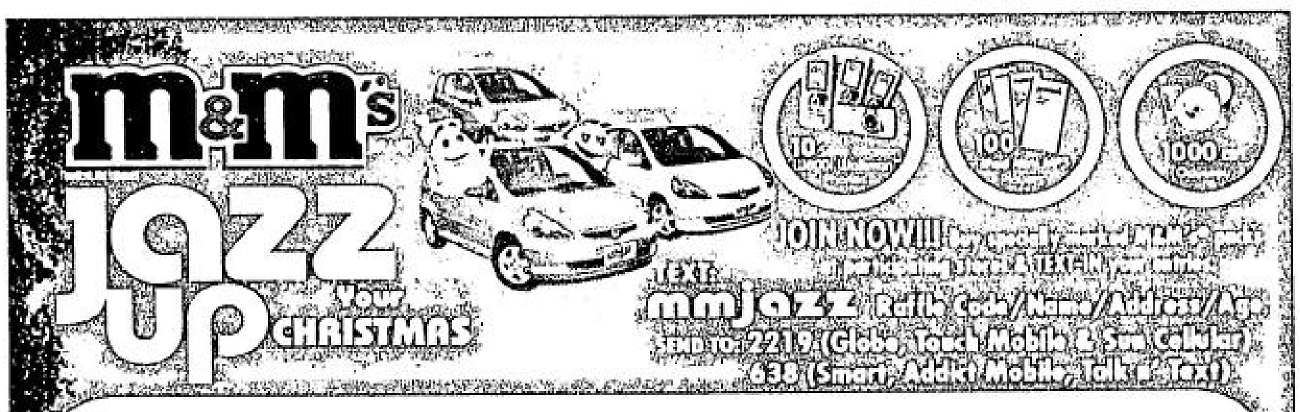
address in the world and zoom in for a view. Of course, nobody would want to receive something downloaded from the Net, so get him the Google Earth Plus version ($20) which comes with GPS device support and the ability to import spreadsheets, drawing tools and better printing.

An introductory dive

First-time divers need not fret. An introductory dive includes equipment, breathing and mask clearing exercises, plus the grand finale: diving 15-20 feet underwater to see corals and parrotfish. An expedition to the pristine waters of Batangas will set you back P1,500. Add almost the same amount for gas money from Manila to Anilao, unless you go diving in Manila Bay instead. Call 4366090, 09179045862 or 0918-9930825 to set a date.

Skydiving

If diving from an airplane sounds crazy, it is. But since your best friend is anything but faint-hearted, give him a leap of faith. On a clear day, take a two-hour drive to Clark Air Base and look for the Tropical Asia Parachute Center. Martin Imatong (0917-8995544) will give you instructions, a one-way plane ride, and moral support for your jump from the sky. In case of apprehension, the parachute comes with an Automatic Activation device. If your friend gets the hang of this P8,500 dive and wants to do a repeat, you need to shell out only P1,750 for his next Christmas gift. Now isn't that what you'd call an investment?


m&m's
jazz up your CHRISTMAS
10
100
1000
JOIN NOW!!!
TEXT: mmjazz Raffle Code/Name/Address/Age
SEND TO: 2219 (Globe, Touch Mobile & Sun Cellular)
638 (Smart, Addict Mobile, Talk n Text)

1st Draw
Apple Mini I-Pod

Name	Address
Arah Patricia Eugenio	Marikina
Celeste Tan	Binondo, Manila
Claudine T. Delatorre	Laguna
Finn Robert Sundstrom	Las Pinas
Ignacio Golez	Quezon City
Liezlyn Genon	Cebu
Louiza Mae Punsalan	Cavite
Ma. Majella Javier	Las Pinas
Perluo Solidor	Tondo, Manila
Romano Obispo	Sta. Mesa, Manila

Odyssey CD

Name	Address
Abigail Pulido	Cavite
Agnes Tolentino	Marikina
Alex Escoto	Cavite
Algemel M. Bato	Caloocan
Alma V. Legaspi	Quezon City
Amador Racpan	Paco, Manila
Amelia F. Tello	Baguio
Angela Alcantara	Pasig
Anna Belinda F. Apeyart	Davao
Anna Margarita D. Ibarrola	Quezon City
Anna Roseatte Nicolas	Tondo, Manila
Aretha L. Matnog	Caloocan
Ariel A Bernardo	Cavite
Audielyn Avecilla	Sampaloc, Manila
Baby Laura Aguilar	Caloocan City
Benedicto Felipe A. Natividad	Rizal
Bernabe S. Roque	Bulacan
Bernadette Acha	Caloocan
Bernadette M. Tiangco	Navotas
Blas Decano	Pangasinan
Camille Dyan Ambion	Tagaytay
Cecile M. Cruz	Cavite
Celeste U Abling	Bulacan
Cheryl Triguero	Quezon City
Chester T. Pablo	Quezon City
Chona Isabelo	Mandaue, Cebu
Chris Jancel	Makati
Christy B. Clamonte	Misamis Oriental
Crescencio R. Beltran III	Naga
Cristina L. Que	Quezon City
Danette Sayo	Quezon City
Danielle Lingat	Paranaque
Danilo Lao	Davao
Dennis F Mapalo	Zambales
Dulce Batensna	Paranaque
Eda P. Araneta	Pasig
Eirene Go	San Miguel, Manila
Emmanuel Abayon	Pampanga
Enzo Dino C. Victoriano	Cavite
Filamer Montes	Cavite
Flor Crisol	Las Pinas
Gabriel D. Coronel	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Giancarlo Calma	Sampaloc, Manila
Gina Concordia	Las Pinas
Glecy S.D. Chua	Marikina
Henry B. Casaul	Makati
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Irine M. Pinera	Laoag
Israel Rosario	Pangasinan
Jacquiline Mumar	Tondo, Manila
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Laila Siason	Laguna
Leonila D. Gonzales	Laguna
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Lilibeth Beraquit	San Juan
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Lourdes D. Donato	Quezon City
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Ma. Cristina C. Manuel	Angeles
Margaret Uy	Recto, Manila
Mary Nor Lopez	Navotas
Marysse Ellaine C. Magat	Cavite
Maureen C Villanueva	Nueva Ecija
Michael Lara	Quezon City
Michael T. Manlo	Angeles
Miriam G. Penilla	Pampanga
Mischel Duran	Batangas
Monna Charisma S. Moleta	Muntinlupa
Muriel Marable	Quezon City
Noel C. Escober	San Juan
Olive Acollador	Cagayan de Oro
Pamela Jalandoni	Negros Occidental
Peter Hud Maceda	Davao
Raymond Castro	Mandaluyong
Rey N. Valencia	Mandaluyong
Rita R. Beltran	Legazpi
Roberto Macaalay	Pangasinan
Rosalie Descanzo	Makati
Rosvida Alfonso	Nueva Ecija
Ruby Quiseo	Cebu
Sebastian p.Jaudian	Mandaluyong
Shiela I. Verallo	Cavite
Shirley Ann Besid	Pasig
Sofia Buenconsejo	Quezon City
Thorek Randolf C. De Castro	Tondo, Manila
Trinidad C. Elizan	Naga

2nd Draw
Apple Mini I-Pod

Name	Address
Christine Garcia	Tondo, Manila
Dennis P Villanueva	Pasig
Erlinda B Dileo	Cavite
Jeffrey Calimutan	Rizal
Jennifer Serafin	Pasig
Josephus T. Grefalda	Bulacan
Kate Glorza	Quezon City
Marita Marcelino	Quezon City
Paula Jean C. Sia	Quezon City
Pedro C. Lopez III	Bulacan

Odyssey CD

Name	Address
Alice Dychangco	Quezon City
Altair Martinez	Bulacan
Angeline Esperanza David	Cavite
Anita L. Ignacio	Pasig
Anna Liza Melon	Tondo, Manila
Arniel Lozano	Pasay
Arnold P Decin	Quezon City
Aristotle De Belen	Malate, Manila
Benedicto C. Pamarang	Pangasinan
Bernice Ong	Pasig
Berylyn B. Catibog	Batangas
Caroy C. Chan	Quezon City
Catherine Joy de Leon	Las Pinas
Celeste Barrera	Pateros, Manila
Cherry Flaminiano	Tarlac
Christian Dela Cruz	Bulacan
Darwin E. Fernandez	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Dianne Belarmino	Makati
Donna Giron	Bulacan
Edwin R. Lasat	Laguna
Elalyn C. Sunga	Tarlac
Eleanor Vergara	Pampanga
Emeleen Igliane	Tondo, Manila
Emelyn Jose	Pasay
Enrico Esteban	Quezon City
Eunice Joy Antonio	Laguna
Flora Salelila	Angeles
Florinda B. Uy	Batangas
Franklin Sy	Mandaluyong
Geraldine Ho	Binondo, Manila
Grace P. Santos	Marikina
Herbert Ting	Bacood, Manila
Ida gay Capalungan	Quezon City
Jackson L. Saw	Malabon
Jan Carlo	Cagayan de Oro
January Anne Narciso	Quezon City
Jean Losola	Camarines Sur
Jennifer Marie Orena	Valenzuela
Jerry Chan	Quezon City
Jesseca D. Robles	Malabon
Jessie Jane Prelo	Mandaluyong
Joan Rufino	Quezon City
Jonas N. San Diego	Marikina
Jose Andrie G. Barrion	Laguna
Josello Ong	Lucena
Josephine Ong	Paranaque
Jusann Jaymes Floyd Gade F.	Quezon City
Kathleen Servanda	Rizal
Kristin Parefi'11e	Quezon City
Kristina Rivera	Quezon City
Kristine Lauren santiago	Angeles
Leila Capili	Mandaluyong
Letty Dipasupil	Tarlac
Ma. Angela B. Dela Paz	Rizal
Ma. Suzanne M. Tobese	Laguna
Ma.Charissa S. Luna	Cebu
Maico T. Julia Jr.	Naga
Marc Bryan Homecillo	Quezon City
Maria Antonia Olafi'11o	Valenzuela
Maria Cecilia Morales	Quezon City
Maria Fe Tarallo	Caloocan
Maria Luisa A. Jacob	Quezon City
Maria Patricia L. Salcedo	Quezon City
Maria Socorro Morales	Quezon City
Marietta Romero	Pasig
Marilyn Trabal	Pasig
Mark Anthony Dungo	Cavite
Marsha C. Ybiernas	Bacolod
Mary Grace D. Hilario	Cavite
Mary Grace Gomez	Paranaque
Mildred M. Caparas	Cavite
Myla Junila	Valenzuela
Nelson Canlas	Sampaloc, Manila
Nichole Del Fin	Pampanga
Noel Almodovar	Pampanga
Olivia Cabillan	Marikina
Oscar S David Jr.	Tondo, Manila
Phamela Natividad	Quezon City
Richard Hao	Binondo, Manila
Rico Jose A. Leuterio	Quezon City
Robert Tanlimco	Quezon City
Rolando F. Dolnog	Tondo, Manila
Rosalie G. Quidasol	Taguig
Rowena E. Maca Wile	Rizal
Ruby Melecio	Paranaque
Ruel James B. Pascua	Marikina
Teresa T. Galope	Pangasinan
Thelma Garcia	Pampanga
Venus Bulatao	Rizal
Virgilio Torres	Bulacan
Winnie Envio-Javellana	Quezon City
Ziela Z. Julnio	Batangas

Winners will be notified via text message.

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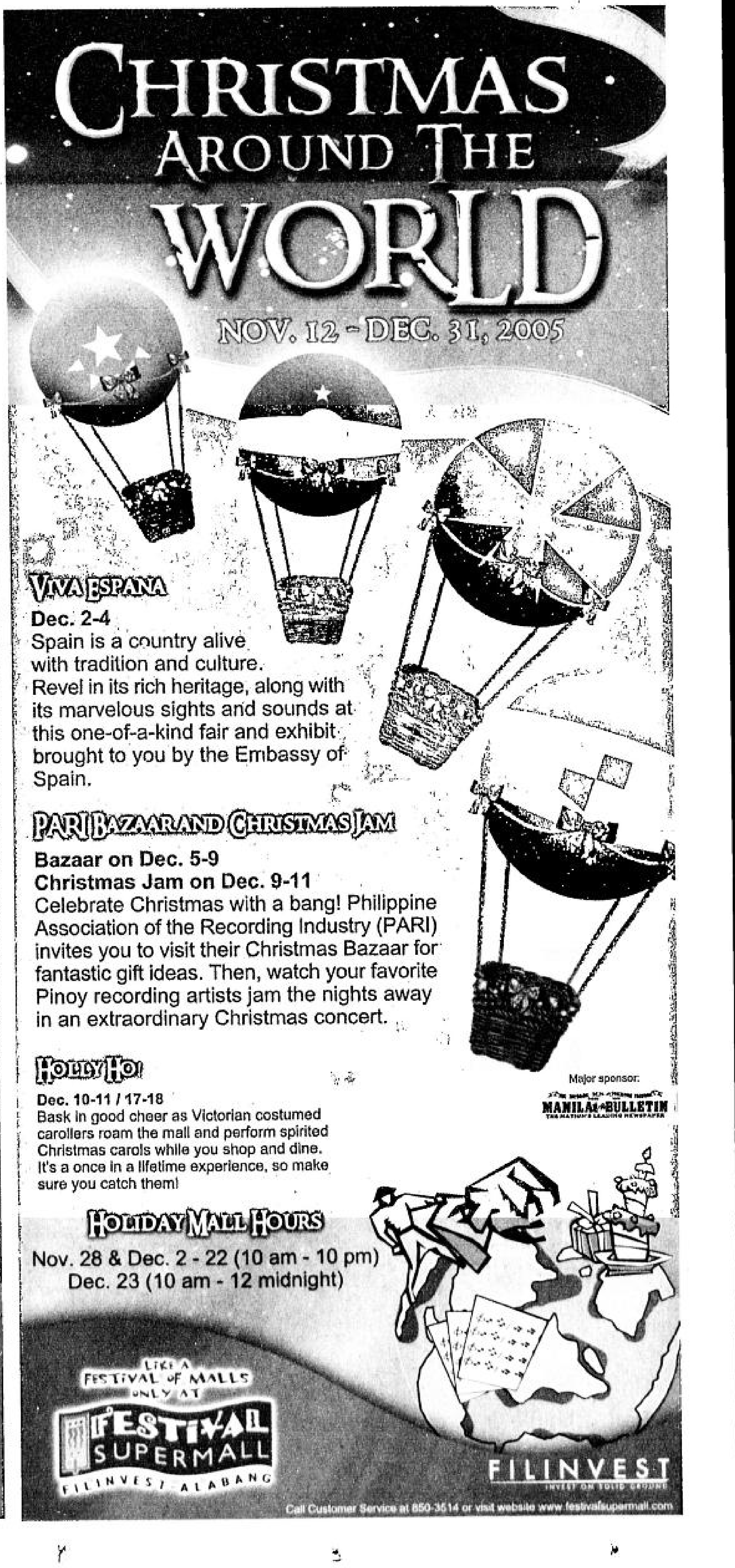

VIVA ESPANA

Dec. 2-4
Spain is a country alive with tradition and culture. Revel in its rich heritage, along with its marvelous sights and sounds at this one-of-a-kind fair and exhibit brought to you by the Embassy of Spain.

PARI BAZAAR AND CHRISTMAS JAM

Bazaar on Dec. 5-9
Christmas Jam on Dec. 9-11
Celebrate Christmas with a bang! Philippine Association of the Recording Industry (PARI) invites you to visit their Christmas Bazaar for fantastic gift ideas. Then, watch your favorite Pinoy recording artists jam the nights away in an extraordinary Christmas concert.

HOLLY HO!

Dec. 10-11 / 17-18
Bask in good cheer as Victorian costumed carollers roam the mall and perform spirited Christmas carols while you shop and dine. It's a once in a lifetime experience, so make sure you catch them!

Major sponsor: MANILA BULLETIN

HOLIDAY MALL HOURS

Nov. 28 & Dec. 2 - 22 (10 am - 10 pm)
Dec. 23 (10 am - 12 midnight)

LIKE A FESTIVAL OF MALLS ONLY AT FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST ALABANG

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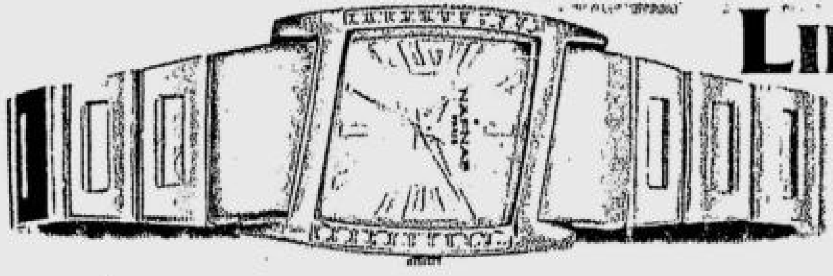


NAFNAF steel bracelet

NAFNAF beige, purple, red

Infants' Wear
baby LOONEY TUNES
TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s06)
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA
MANDURRIAO • DELGADO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • SUCAT • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • SAN LAZARO

For the perennially late

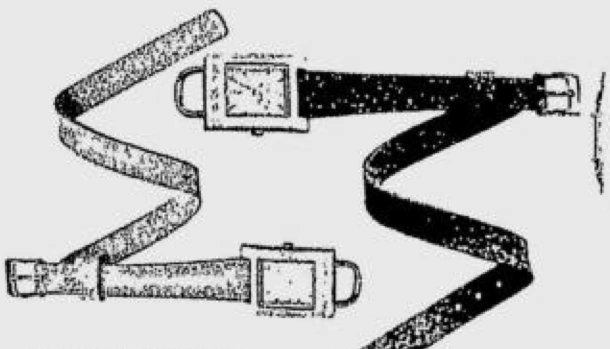
By Pam Pastor

FOR THE FRIEND YOU LOVE but is always late, or for the girlfriend who always makes you wait, a watch might just be the perfect Christmas gift.

It's a subtle (and loving) reminder that they can wear on their wrists. It's also a great way for them to chuck their lame excuses out the window. With these watches, they can no longer say, "I lost track of time…" or "I didn't realize what time it was…" or "My watch stopped."

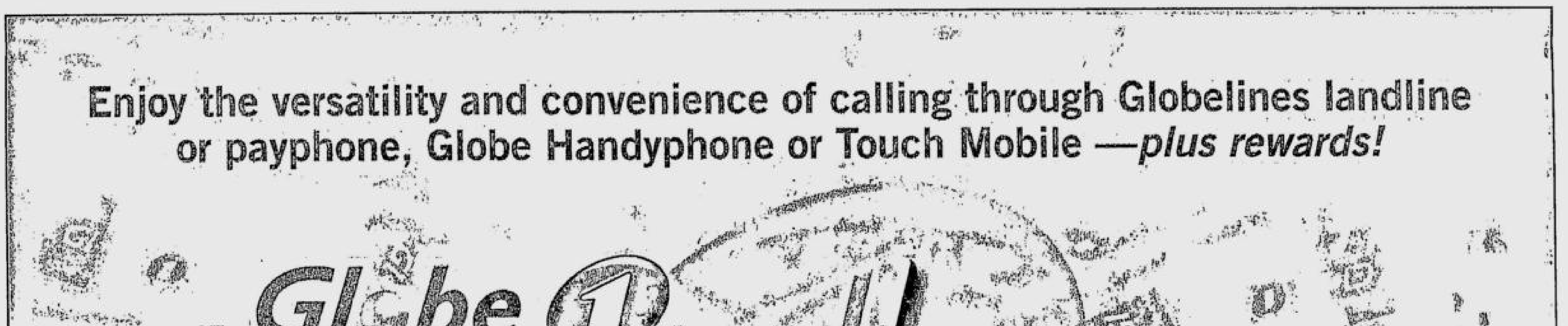
Watches available at Time Depot branches.

NAFNAF branded



NAFNAF pink, blue

SQUARE


Enjoy the versatility and convenience of calling through Globelines landline or payphone, Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile —*plus rewards!*

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WIN 1 of 3 HP Compaq 6120 Laptops

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WIN 1 Toyota Innova

- To join, simply write your name, address, contact number, name of dealer or outlet where Globe 1 card was purchased, and your signature on a piece of paper.
- Put it in an envelope together with 1 used* Globe 1 P100 or P300 card. Only 1 entry per envelope.
- Place your entries in designated drop boxes found in all Globelines Payments & Services centers, Globe Telecom Business Centers or 7-Eleven outlets nationwide.**
- The more raffle entries you have, the bigger your chances of winning!***

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Grab a Globe 1 card now and get a chance to Win 1.

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GLOBE TELECOM

* Unused Globe 1 cards will not be accepted as entries.
** All entries must be received on or before 5 pm on December 1, 2005.
*** Winners will be drawn in the presence of a DTI representative on December 15, 2005 at the Globe Telecom Telepark, 111 Valero St., Makati City

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5667, Series of 2005.

LIFESTYLE

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For the romantic

By Pam Pastor

HERE'S A LIST OF ROMANTIC gifts, off the top of our heads—roses, chocolates... a diamond ring?

But anyone can get roses and chocolates melt. And we're sure it would take more than just three weeks for you to save up for a diamond ring.

If you're searching for a gift for your loved one, stay away from the jewelry store and head straight for your favorite record bar. Ask them for the "Romancing Venus" CD, line up at the cashier, pay for it and walk out. You have just purchased the perfect romantic gift.

"Romancing Venus" is the brainchild of Kooky Tuason, a poet who brings love to life with her powerful words. The album features her poems set to music and read or sang by some of the country's favorite women.

KC Concepcion. Barbie Almalbis of Barbie's Cradle. Hannah Romawac of Session Road. Kate Torralba. Triccia David, Cindy Kurleto. Iza Calzado. Angel Aquino. Chinggay Andrada. Myrza Sison. Maegan Aguilar. And more.

I wish
You'd find me
There
Begging
To be
Carried
On a wing
And a prayer

—**"Angel," sang by Monique Jaramillo of Seven Shots**

You are the rain
That falls
On the window
Of my sad eyes

—**"Storm," sang by Wawi Navarroza of The Late Isabel**

Every time you buy a CD, part of the proceeds will go to the Women's Crisis Center. Beautiful music, inspiring words and the chance to help others. "Romancing Venus" is a gift within a gift.

Kooky has many other projects that she's working on. The next album will be out in 2006. She's also working on a book, a concert and poetry-reading sessions.

But right now, we're happy with "Romancing Venus."

Because really, it says so much more than a diamond ring.

"Romancing Venus" is available at Tower Records, Music One, Astroplus, SM, Odyssey, I Love You Store and The Chunky Far Flung Gallery.

Visit www.venusinorbit.com

TIME MANAGEMENT JUST GOT EASIER AT THE SAN LORENZO TOWER

6:30 pm and you're still stuck in your board meeting, reviewing financial projections for the next quarter. Your mobile phone is blinking incessantly. You're sure it must be your girlfriends, all excited about the night-out at Nuvo you've been planning for weeks. Or it could be your Mom too, waiting for the bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon you promised to bring home for dinner, if only to make up for all the family dinners you've missed these last two weeks.

At The Residences at Greenbelt's San Lorenzo Tower, that will never be a problem. No need to take the long drive to have a quiet dinner with Mom and Dad at home, or drive out afterwards to have a night-out at your favorite night spot with friends.

Because it's right in Greenbelt, your home is now right in the center of both work and play. And since all the fanciest restaurants, the hippest bars and the coolest night spots are already there, you can stay out as long as you want without having to worry about driving back home, especially after that last Frozen Margarita. It's the closest thing to being at three places at the same time.

At the San Lorenzo Tower, everything you can possibly need is just within arm's reach. So go ahead, have your duckquitos in Good Earth or walk down the row to Bizu for your dessert. Have a drink or two with friends at Nuvo. And still get to surprise Dad waiting home, with his favorite cappuccino from Figaro.

There's the Ayala Museum just around the corner for that much-needed whiff of art and culture, or the Greenbelt Park right across for relaxation amidst the greenery and fountain. There's also the Greenbelt Chapel for quiet moments for prayer and meditation, or for the simple enjoyment of watching the fish pond and ducks.

You can even see all these right from the comfort of your own luxurious two-bedroom unit at the San Lorenzo Tower. Soaring to a height of 195 meters, comprising 57 floors, the San Lorenzo Tower offers an unhampered view of Greenbelt and the dynamic and ever-changing Makati skyline on one side and the idyllic greenery of the San Lorenzo village on the other, all the way to the south.

Such is the respite and ease offered by the San Lorenzo Tower at The Residences at Greenbelt. It's where work-life balance just became much easier.

The Residences at Greenbelt is an offering by Ayala Land Premier, the largest real-estate development company for high-end residences and carefully master-planned developments. Ayala Land's commitment to excellence and exclusivity unquestionably makes it the address of choice.

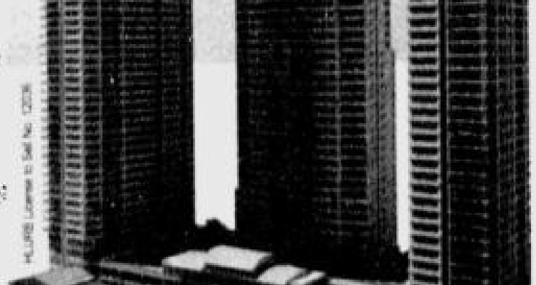
To know more about the San Lorenzo Tower, view our model units at the 3rd floor, Greenbelt 3. You can also call our sales hotline at 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph .

Dinner with Mom & Dad. Drinks with the gang at Nuvo. Time management just got easier with our new unit at the San Lorenzo Tower at the Residences at Greenbelt.

Big enough for Mom, Dad and myself. Near enough to Miguel's and my favorite night spots. It's the closest thing to being in two places at the same time.

The perfect place for your perfect story. The new San Lorenzo Tower at The Residences at Greenbelt.

An AYALA Community
THE RESIDENCES
AT GREENBELT

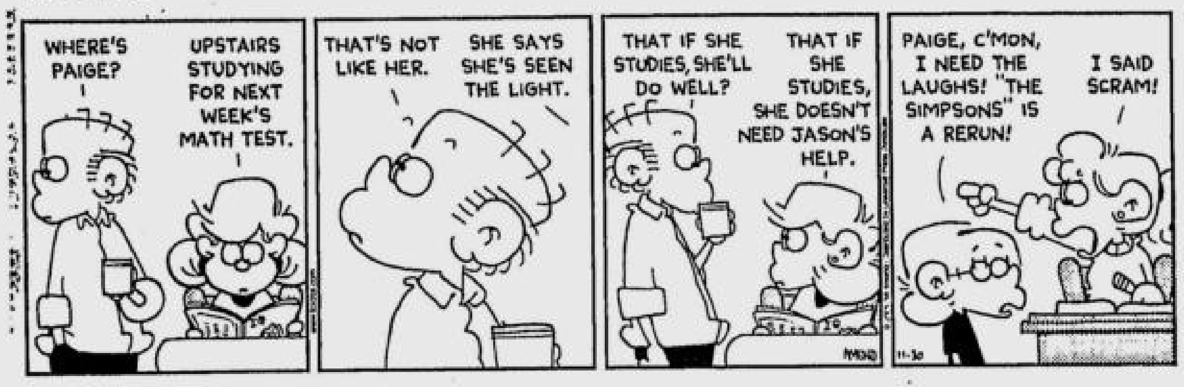


1, 2, 3 bedroom units and lofts now available. Call: 728-7000 • ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph • www.ayalaland.com.ph

AYALA LAND, INC.

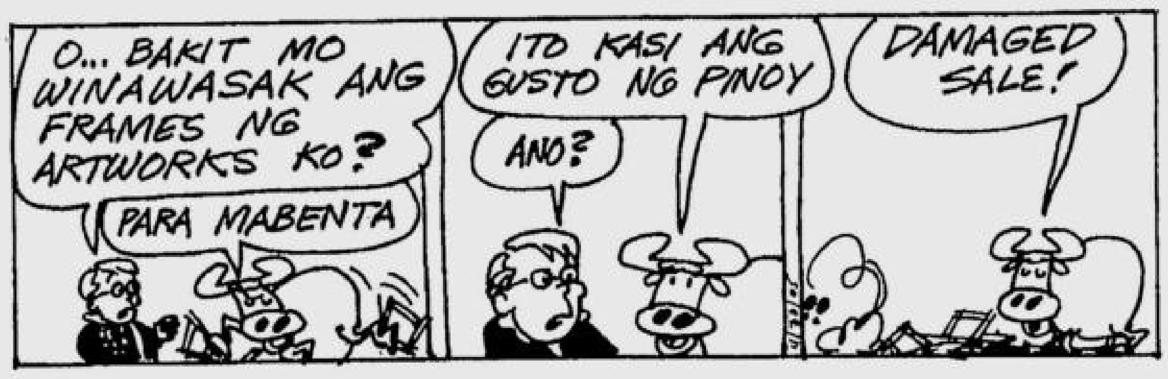
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHERE'S PAIGE?
UPSTAIRS STUDYING FOR NEXT WEEK'S MATH TEST.
THAT'S NOT LIKE HER.
SHE SAYS SHE'S SEEN THE LIGHT.
THAT IF SHE STUDIES, SHE'LL DO WELL?
THAT IF SHE STUDIES, SHE DOESN'T NEED JASON'S HELP.
PAIGE, C'MON, I NEED THE LAUGHS! "THE SIMPSONS" IS A RERUN!
I SAID SCRAM!
11-30

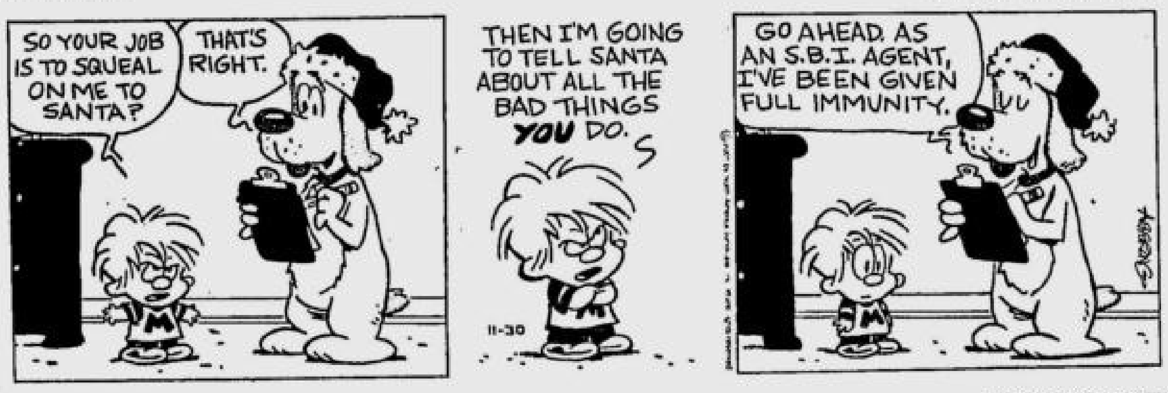
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT MO WINAWASAK ANG FRAMES NG ARTWORKS KO?
PARA MABENTA
ANO?
ITO KASI ANG GUSTO NG PINOY
DAMAGED SALE!

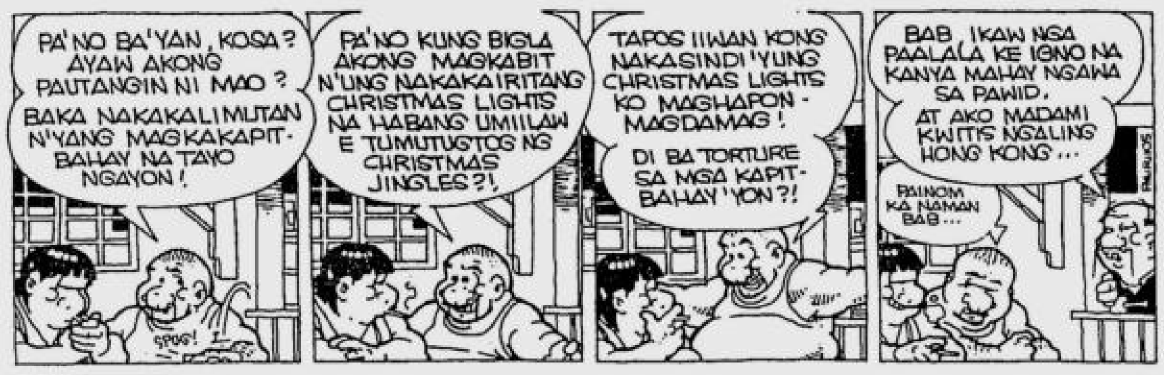
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SO YOUR JOB IS TO SQUEAL ON ME TO SANTA?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN I'M GOING TO TELL SANTA ABOUT ALL THE BAD THINGS YOU DO.
11-30
GO AHEAD. AS AN S.B.I. AGENT, I'VE BEEN GIVEN FULL IMMUNITY.

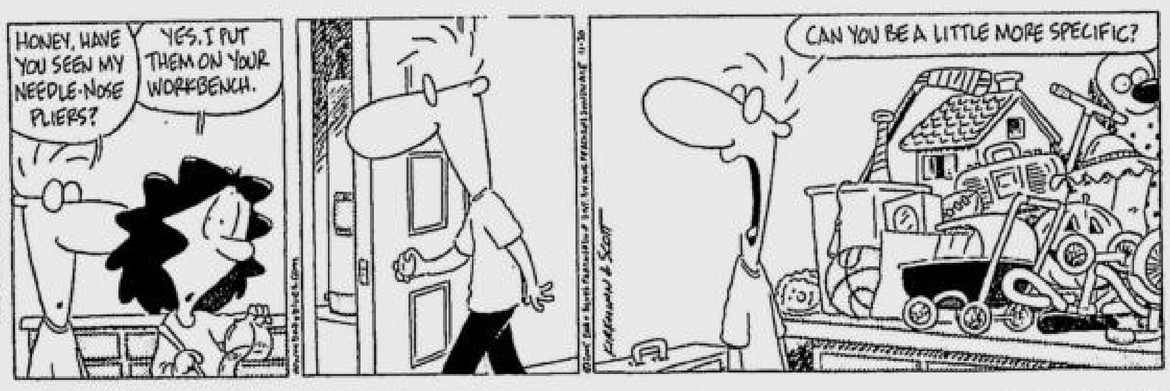
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA'NO BA'YAN, KOSA? AYAW AKONG PAUTANGIN NI MAO?
BAKA NAKAKALIMUTAN N'YANG MAGKAKAPIT-BAHAY NA TAYO NGAYON!
SPOG!
PA'NO KUNG BIGLA AKONG MAGKABIT N'UNG NAKAKAIRITANG CHRISTMAS LIGHTS NA HABANG UMIILAW E TUMUTUGTOG NG CHRISTMAS JINGLES?!
TAPOS IIWAN KONG NAKASINDI 'YUNG CHRISTMAS LIGHTS KO MAGHAPON-MAGDAMAG!
DI BA TORTURE SA MGA KAPIT-BAHAY 'YON?!
BAB, IKAW NGA PAALALA KE IGNO NA KANYA MAHAY NGAWA SA PAWID.
AT AKO MADAMI KWITIS NGALING HONG KONG...
PAINOM KA NAMAN BAB...

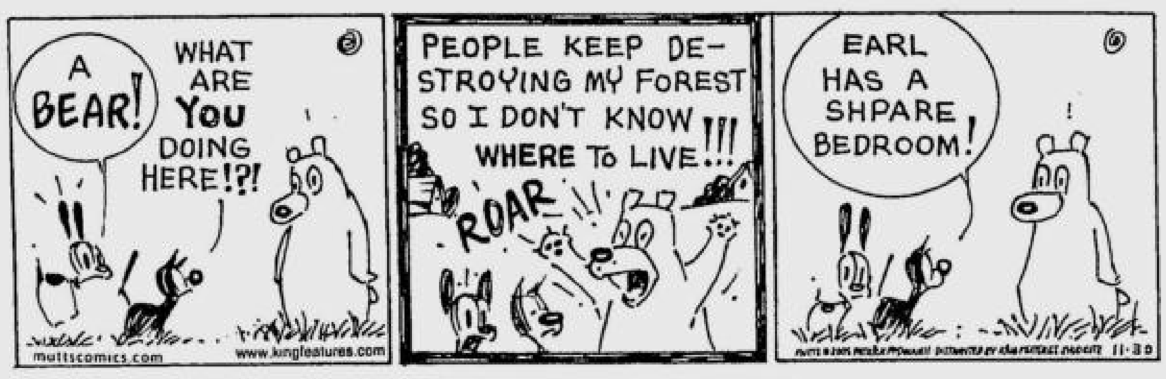
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HONEY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS?
YES. I PUT THEM ON YOUR WORKBENCH.
CAN YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?

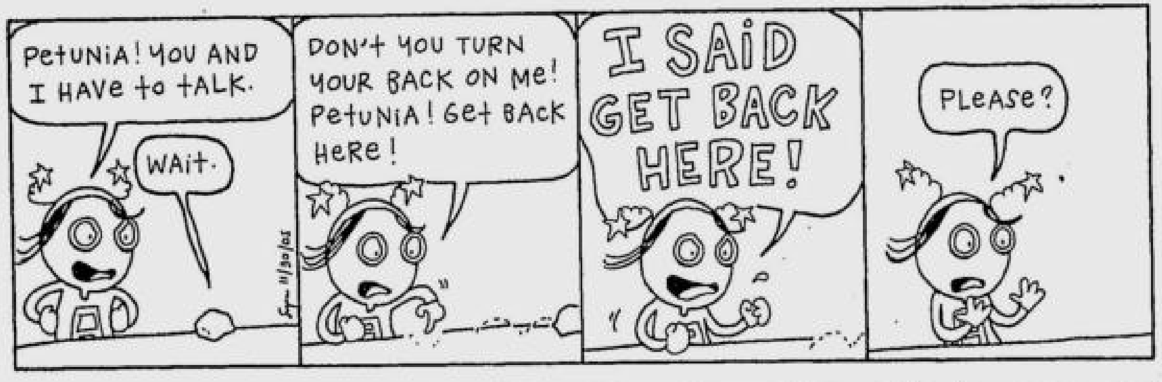
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A BEAR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?!
PEOPLE KEEP DESTROYING MY FOREST SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LIVE!!!
ROAR
EARL HAS A SHPARE BEDROOM!
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
11-30

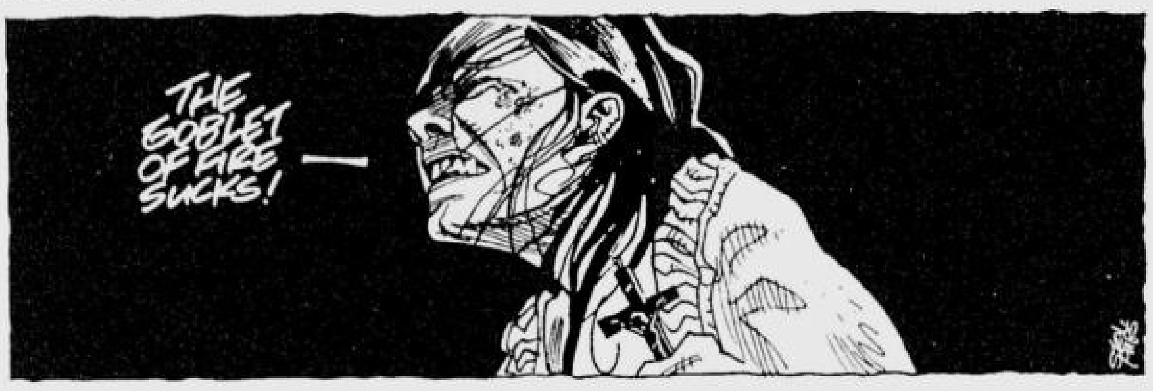
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


PetuNiA! YOU AND I HAVE to tALK.
WAit.
DON't YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON ME! PetuNiA! Get BACK Here!
I SAiD GET BACK HERE!
PLease?
11/30/05

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE GOBLET OF FIRE SUCKS!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a lively imagination. You're gifted in a creative, versatile way. You trust your instincts. People like you because you're optimistic. Your communication skills help you in your job. Education is important. In your 50s, you become modern, independent and freedom-loving. Work hard in the year ahead to build or construct something. Your rewards will follow shortly.
Birthdate of: Mandy Patinkin, actor; Ben Stiller, actor; Dick Clark, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a pretty good day to define where your responsibilities begin and end with someone. Get this clearly established. When these things are fuzzy, nobody is happy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day for intense discussions with partners and close friends. You're willing to listen, and there's a lot that you want to say.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Talk to coworkers about old problems. This is a good day to work things out. Show people that you're willing to listen. Make your success the success of others by looking for common solutions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your ability to relate to young people and children is excellent today. You truly enjoy them, and you understand where they're coming from. (Romance is also exciting.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family discussions about domestic matters are certainly enthusiastic today. That's because you identify strongly with your point of view right now. (That's OK.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to talk to siblings, neighbors and relatives. People believe you, because it's evident that you say what you mean and you mean what you say!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today is not an ideal time to shop or spend money. Wait until later in the evening. However, you can do your research by window shopping. Just wait until tomorrow to spend your money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're going to put a lot of yourself into whatever you have to say today. That's because the Moon and Mercury are both lined up in your sign. One thing is certain—you're convincing!

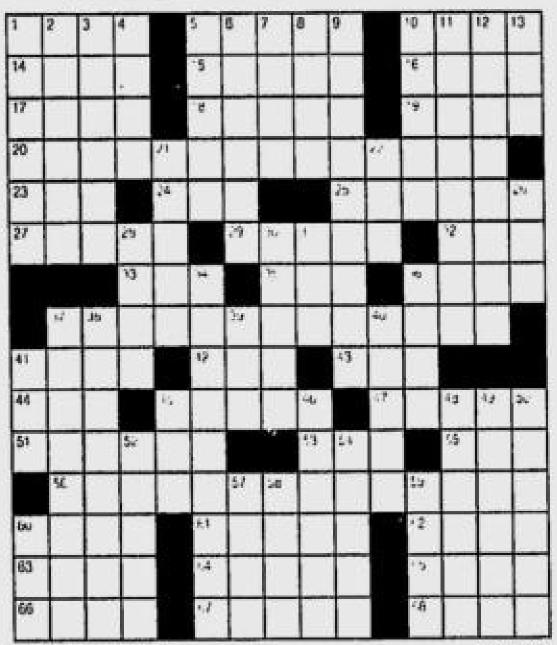
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an excellent day to do research and look for secrets or lost things. It's also an excellent day to goof off and take it easy if you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Enjoy conversations with friends, especially female friends today. Keep things lighthearted. Don't make important plans or agree to anything important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might impress important people with your creative ideas today. However, don't volunteer for anything. Don't agree to anything important. Wait until tomorrow to make major decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is an interesting day to study offbeat subjects, learn a new language or explore hidden wisdom. You're open to new ideas today.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

11/30/05

ACROSS
1 Air problem
5 Century starter
10 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
14 Traditional bar mitzvah dance
15 Mild cigar
16 Natterjack
17 Angry states
18 Aldrin or Meese
19 Minute parasites
20 See 68A
23 Of the ear: pref.
24 Nice summer?
25 Ballerina Collier
27 "Polar Express" star
29 Tentacled mollusk
32 Ginger __
33 European peak
35 Vert. bars on goods
36 Mislead: slang
37 See 68A
41 Half a 1987 Billy Idol hit
42 Telecast
43 P. Hearst's kidnappers
44 Banned insecticide
45 Examples of beefcake
47 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
51 Dog Star
53 1040EZ whiz
55 Ex-G.I.
56 See 68A
60 Photos
61 Market town
62 Rod's partner
63 __-noire
64 French river
65 Taking it easy
66 Yemen port city
67 Annual sports awards
68 Clue for 20A, 37A and 56A

DOWN
1 1862 battle site
2 "The Karate Kid" star
3 Crater Lake location
4 Deep cut
5 Bouquet
6 Blasts from the past
7 Young deer
8 Math class
9 Disharmony
10 "__ Shrugged"
11 Daily Planet employee
12 Unmarried man
13 Humorist writer George
21 Magnetic unit
22 __ Zeppelin
26 Evergreen
28 Actress Jurado
30 Hadron constituent
31 "What can Brown do for you?" co.
34 Credible
36 Obstacle
37 Changed
38 Dramatic intermission
39 Half a sawbuck
40 Controversial 2000 refugee
41 ER personnel
45 "Ben-__"
46 Move in haste
48 City north of Leon
49 Explain again
50 Surgical tool
52 "Ghosts" playwright
54 Congress staffers
57 Pigeon sounds
58 Clever remark
59 Chi-town paper
60 Earl Anthony org.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	G	■	P	E	Z	■	M	A	D	■	O	S	S
I	D	A	■	A	X	F	■	O	S	U	■	N	A	E
C	U	R	L	I	E	P	■	S	T	A	B	I	L	E
■	■	B	A	N	D	O	H	A	I	I	R	O	A	D
C	Y	A	N	■	■	H	A	I	■	■	I	N	D	Y
R	A	N	D	B	C	O	N	C	L	H	T	■	■	■
A	D	Z	■	E	H	U	D	■	M	O	S	E	Y	S
I	D	O	■	R	U	P	■	O	B	S	■	L	A	P
G	A	S	P	E	R	■	O	L	E	S	■	S	L	A
■	■	■	A	A	N	D	W	D	R	I	V	E	I	N
B	L	U	H	■	■	H	E	G	■	■	E	W	E	S
R	A	N	D	H	F	U	R	L	O	U	G	H	■	■
I	N	B	O	A	R	D	■	O	U	T	S	E	L	L
A	G	O	■	G	A	G	■	H	T	I	■	R	A	Y
R	E	X	■	J	T	E	■	Y	A	P	■	E	Y	E

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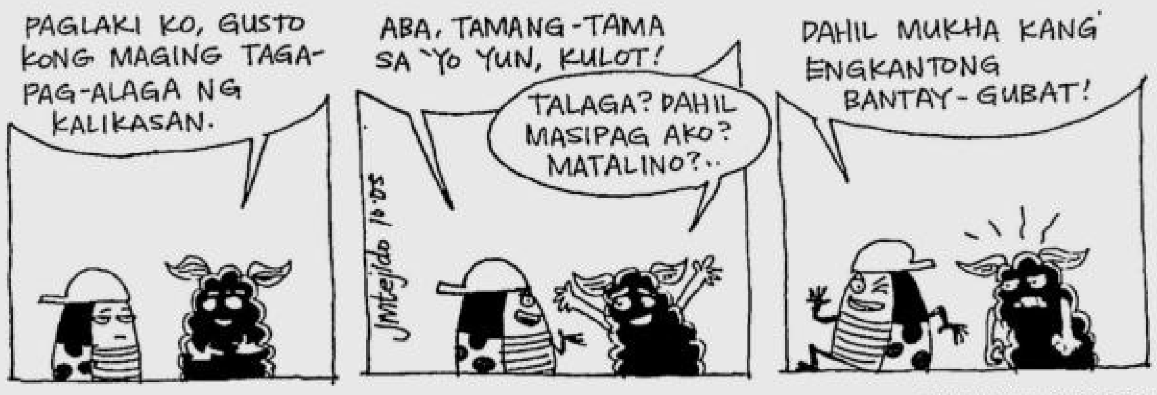
11/30/05

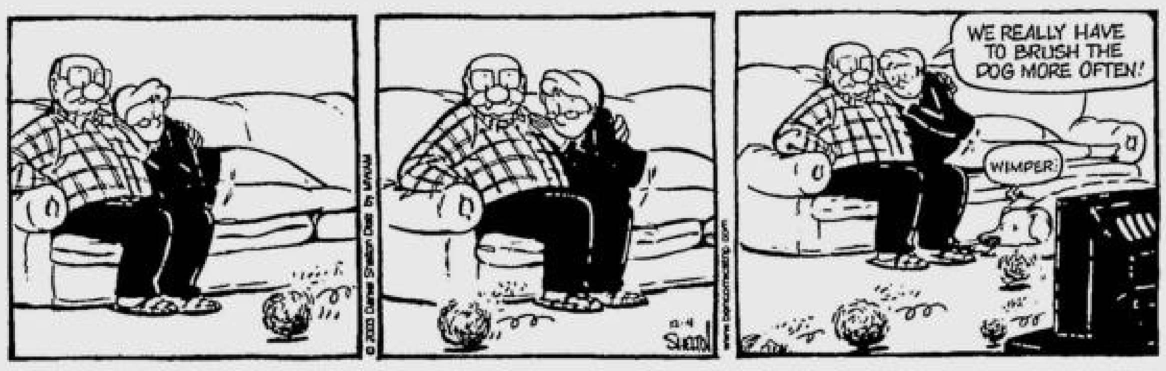
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, GUSTO KONG MAGING TAGA-PAG-ALAGA NG KALIKASAN.
ABA, TAMANG-TAMA SA 'YO YUN, KULOT!
TALAGA? DAHIL MASIPAG AKO? MATALINO?..
DAHIL MUKHA KANG ENGKANTONG BANTAY-GUBAT!
JMtejido 11-05

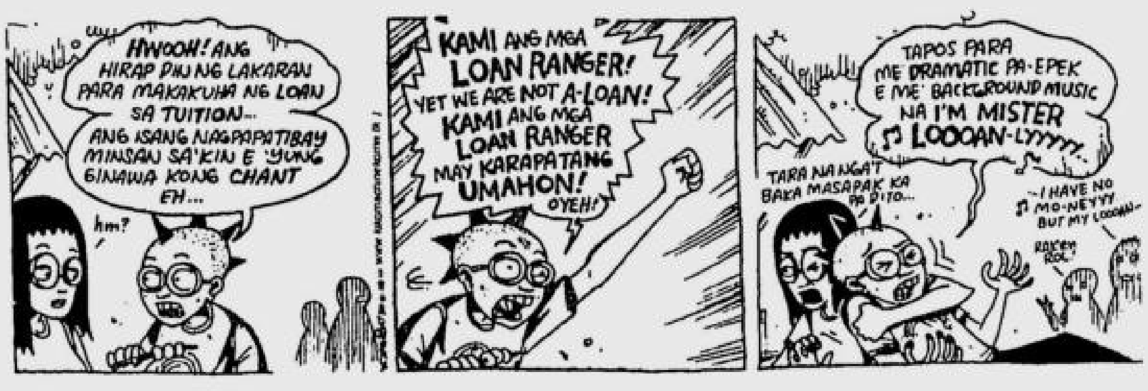
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WE REALLY HAVE TO BRUSH THE DOG MORE OFTEN!
WIMPER!

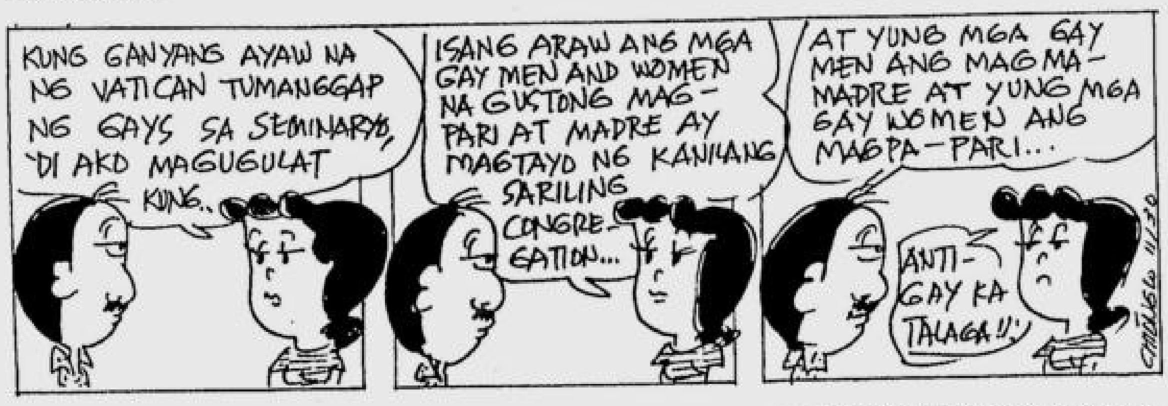
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! ANG HIRAP PA NG LAKARAN PARA MAKAKUHA NG LOAN SA TUITION...
ANG ISANG NAGPAPATIBAY MINSAN SA'KIN E 'YUNG GINAWA KONG CHANT EH...
hm?
KAMI ANG MGA LOAN RANGER! YET WE ARE NOT A-LOAN! KAMI ANG MGA LOAN RANGER MAY KARAPATANG UMAHON!
OYEH!
TAPOS PARA ME DRAMATIC PA-EPEK E ME BACKGROUND MUSIC NA I'M MISTER LOOOAN-LYYYY...
TARA NA NGA'T BAKA MASAPAK KA PA DITO...
I HAVE NO MO-NEYYY BUT MY LOOOAN
RAKEN ROL

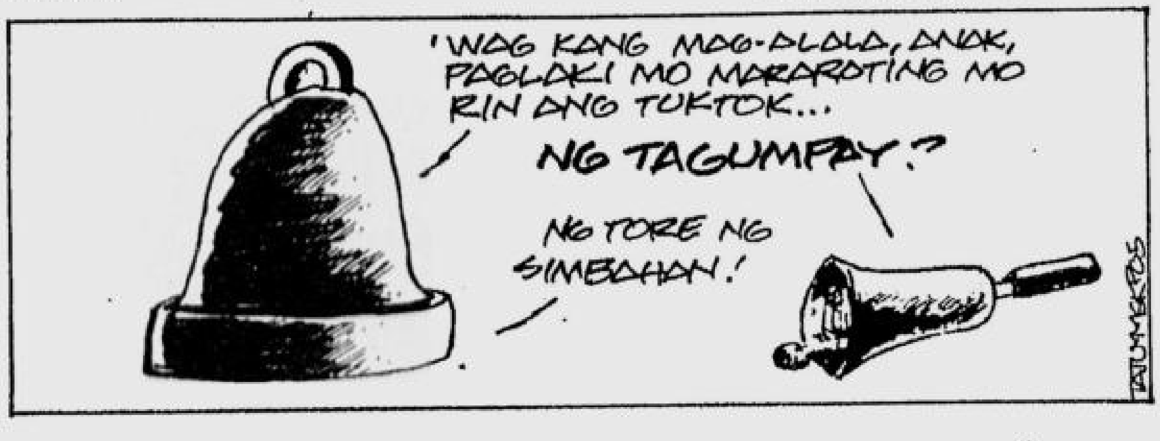
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG GANYANG AYAW NA NG VATICAN TUMANGGAP NG GAYS SA SEMINARYO, 'DI AKO MAGUGULAT KUNG..
ISANG ARAW ANG MGA GAY MEN AND WOMEN NA GUSTONG MAG-PARI AT MADRE AY MAGTAYO NG KANILANG SARILING CONGREGATION...
AT YUNG MGA GAY MEN ANG MAGMA-MADRE AT YUNG MGA GAY WOMEN ANG MAGPA-PARI...
ANTI-GAY KA TALAGA!!
CHIONGLO 11/30

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA, ANAK, PAGLAKI MO MARAROTING MO RIN ANG TUKTOK...
NG TAGUMPAY?
NG TORE NG SIMBAHAN!
TATUM-MEKPOS

Makeup's treasure trove

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

THERE IS MAKEUP THAT IS easy to wear, say nude eye shadow, pink-brown lipstick, face powder and amber-toned blush. Then there is also makeup that would be out of place anywhere but a costume party. And there's the third category—makeup worn to dull office meetings as well as hot dates.

MAC's holiday collection, dubbed "Holiday Treasures," fits perfectly the third category. The collection includes palettes filled with jewel-colored eye shadows and lipsticks, gift pouches, and brush sets.

Seven palettes comprise the season's collection—three eyeshadow palettes, three lipstick palettes and a face palette. There are palettes for warm and cool skintones, as well those that feature the season's trend.

WARM Teal eye palette

The warm palette has shimmery neutrals such as beige and brown; it also has bright turquoise and metallic violet.

Likewise, the lip palette contains six shades of lipstick plus a high-quality lip brush.

The face palette, on the other hand, contains four shades of eye shadow (metallic copper, metallic green, plum and pink), two shades of lipstick (bronze and pink) and one blush (soft pink). At P2,750, this offers the most value for money because it is a versatile item that can be used for day and night.

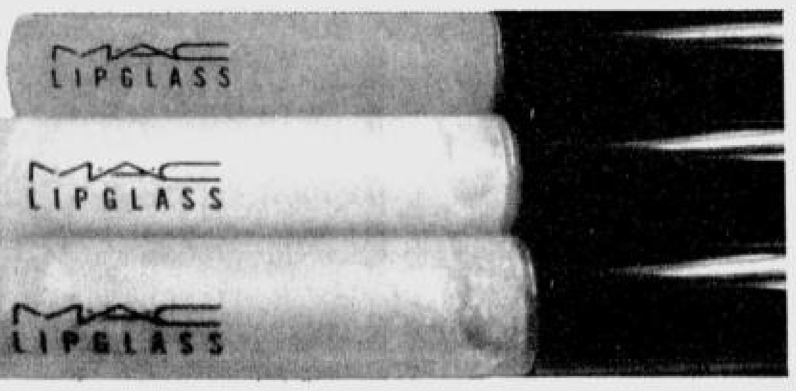
Lip gloss sets

Lip gloss lovers may want to check out the collection. The boxed sets of lip gloss, dubbed "Temptations," have a wide range of colors and again offer value for money.

The Warm set includes five peachy-bronze shades of gloss, while the Cool set leans toward the silvery-pink side. The Lipgelee set, on the other hand, contains four tubes of jelly-like gloss.

There are also three pouch sets that contain two limited-edition lipsticks, a lipglass and a lip brush. Again, these are classified as Warm, Cool and Trend.

Experienced makeup lovers may want to check out the collections of pigments (loose powder than can be used for the eyes, lips and face), MAC Paints (cream eye colors that come in a tube) and Shadesticks (chubby pencil liners).



LIPGLASS from the Cool set

Brush sets

However, the best thing about MAC's holiday collection has to be its two limited-edition brush sets called Stashettes. The first set contains a blush brush, two eye-shadow brushes, an angled liner brush and a lip brush. The second has more hard-to-find brushes, such as an angled blush brush, a foundation brush, a large eye-shadow brush, a flat liner brush and a concealer brush.

All of MAC's holiday offerings this year are housed in Oriental-theme pouches trimmed with faux crocodile leather. Perfect as stocking stuffers, these holiday sets will surely win the hearts of any jaded makeup aficionado. Check out the Holiday collection in MAC stores at Rustan's Shangril-La and Makati.

ANCHOR BUTTER, NO OTHER
A tradition of trust, taste and triumph

There are many elements that contribute to the success of a business. Hard work, patience, dedication, and know-how are all fundamental components of any winning venture. But there is one element that stands above the rest, which can mean the difference between those establishments that falter and those that succeed and stand the test of time. It is this factor that note-worthy establishments hold in highest regard: Quality.

Maintaining good quality takes more than running luck and blind ambition. It takes time, consistency and care. It's a commitment to always look for premiere value and to always do things right. It means never settling for second best, never compromising, winning your patrons' trust, and keeping it.

New establishments in the Philippines can proudly say that they have built a level of unwavering trust with their consumers. And that trust stems from their adherence to delivering good quality products. Praiseworthy success stories like those of Delifrance, Romana Peanut Brittle, and Good Shepherd's Mountain Maid products are testaments to the ever-present need to commit to quality.

Delifrance has been the global forerunner in French bakery products for over twenty-five years. Based on nearly a century of baking tradition, Delifrance's products include over 500 high-quality, innovative and convenient baked goods that range from bread to viennoiseries and patisseries. Delifrance's main thrust is being passionate about consistently providing fresh, high quality food and beverage as well as delivering superior value and excellent customer service.

In the Philippines, with over 160 branches nationwide, Delifrance has been taking the lead in serving fast food French cuisine for the past 10 years. Its Executive Chef, Andrew Chua, says that the secret to their success is in their dedication to service. "Always find out what the customer wants," says Chua. "The customer is boss." This commitment to satisfying their customers is what drives Delifrance to produce nothing but the best.

Romana Peanut Brittle has been a Filipino family favorite since 1956, when young homemaker Romana de Vera started it. Now run by her son, Raffy, Romana's excellent quality has become legendary nationwide. "My parents' original clients were relatives and friends so they took extra care in developing the tastiest recipe," he reveals. "As the brand grew, we made sure we always adhered to the original concoction."

Romana herself takes such great pride in that fact that the business is something she's passed on to her children. "I am happy that Romana Peanut Brittle has become a byword," she says. "This business has grown along with my family."

The Good Shepherd Convent near Mines View Park produces the most delectable ube halaya in the country. Sold under the label "Mountain Maid," it's become a staple pasalubong of those who visit the cool mountains of Baguio City. Sister Sue Sinense, Sister Coordinator of Good Shepherd Baguio, holds this ube-making tradition close to her heart because the proceeds of every bottle go to the benefit of the Cordillera youth. "It seems that our mission in Good Shepherd has extended to our customers," Sister Sue relates. "When in Baguio, people prefer Mountain Maid because they realize that aside from enjoying the products, they are also able to help others."

According to Sister Sue, *ube halaya* was a product developed to supplement the unavailability of strawberries all-year round. The Mountain Maid *ube halaya* was concocted by Sister Mary Assumption in the 70s, with the help of other sisters described by Sister Sue as "having a gift for making sweets."

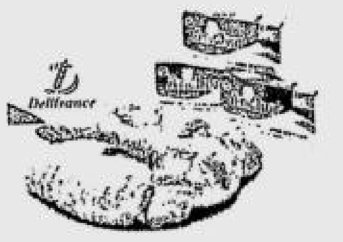
These respected and highly frequented establishments have made names for themselves because of their persistence in finding that "winning formula" and sticking to it, without ever settling on their ingredients. They realized early on that sacrificing the quality of their ingredients greatly diminished the quality of their products. After all, producing good quality food naturally entails using good quality ingredients, and for these time-honored institutions, Anchor Butter is one such ingredient you simply cannot compromise.

"I've tried other butters," says Chef Andrew. "But there's too much moisture in them and the smell and color aren't right. Plus there's the flavor. Anchor Butter has no artificial flavors, and that comes out in the food. Customers can tell the difference."

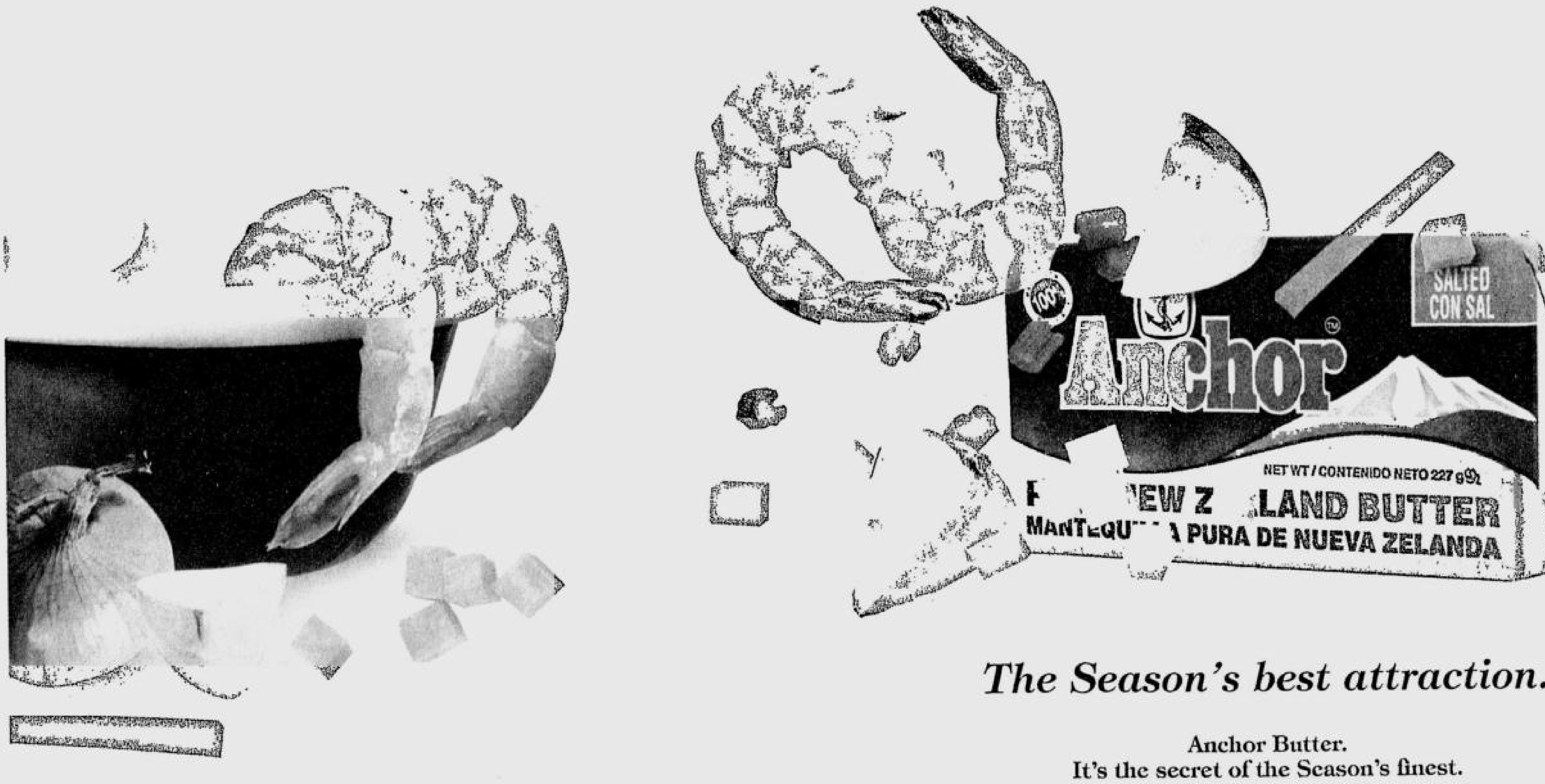
Raffy de Vera agrees. "We tried other brands in the past but it didn't work for us. We get the best taste by using Anchor," he says. Even his mother concurs: "*Nasa butter talaga yan*," she says. "I know it by taste. I can tell if they only used margarine or other brands, it loses some of the sweetness and flavor."

That kind of trust in Anchor comes from their dedication to producing the best quality products. "We use the best ingredients," Sister Sue explains. "We make sure the materials we use in making the *ube halaya* adhere to consistency, quality and availability, which can all be found in Anchor," Sister Sue reveals.

No wonder for these loyal patrons, it's definitely Anchor Butter, no other.



ADVT.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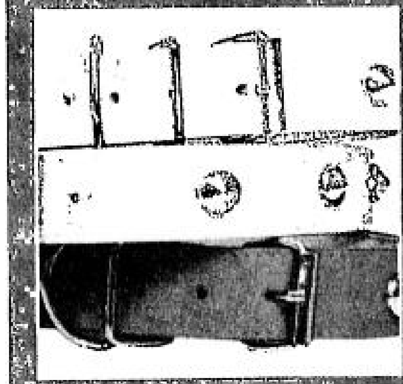
Anchor Butter.
It's the secret of the Season's finest.
Because this Christmas, only the creamiest
and the tastiest will do.
There's just no substitute for it.

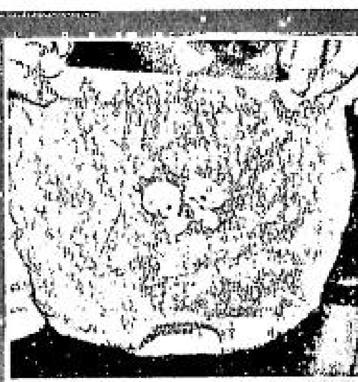
Seafood Pastel

INGREDIENTS:
CRUST : 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour • 1 cup ANCHOR BUTTER, cubed • 1 tsp salt • 1/2 cup cold water
EGGWASH: 2-3 tbsps water stirred in 1 pc egg yolk, slightly beaten
FILLING: 1/4 cup white wine • 1 cup scallops • 1/2 cup ANCHOR BUTTER • 1/2 cup onion, chopped • 1/2 cup celery, chopped • 3/4 cup carrot, cubed • 3/4 cup potato, cubed • 1 cup shrimps suahe, peeled • 1 cup squid rings • 1/4 cup all purpose flour • 2 cups shrimp broth • 1/2 cup all purpose cream • 1/2 - 1 tsp fine salt • 1/4 tsp ground black pepper

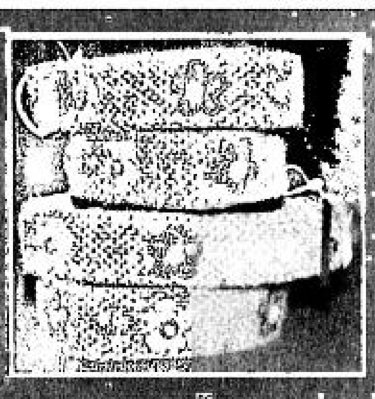
PROCEDURE:
PASTRY DOUGH: Place flour, salt and **ANCHOR BUTTER** in a food processor and pulse until mixture resembles the size of a pea. Add water a tablespoon at a time and pulse. Check dough by squeezing with your finger to see if it holds together. If not, add more water. Remove from bowl and shape into a ball. Refrigerate for 20 mins.
FILLING: Pour wine in a pan and simmer. Add scallops and cook until most of the liquid evaporates. Set aside. Melt **ANCHOR BUTTER** in a saucepan. Saute onion and celery. Add carrots and potatoes. Add shrimp and squid rings. Cook until shrimp changes color. Add scallops. Stir in flour. Pour in shrimp broth and stir in cream. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 5 mins. Transfer seafood mixture to a baking dish. On a slightly floured surface, roll out dough by using a rolling pin and place on top of your dish. Brush dough with eggwash. Bake for 40 minutes at 400° F until crust turns golden brown.
Makes 6 servings.



BOUCHE chic collars, coco material

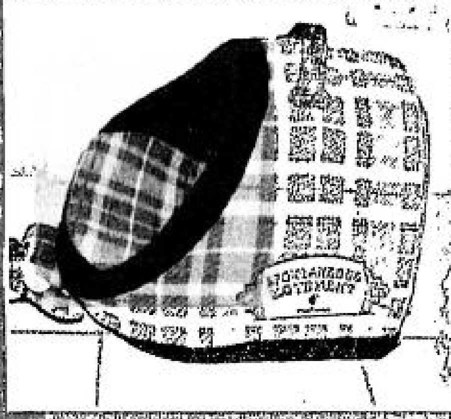


PUPPY panties, P250 (comes with free pantyliner)



OLD Navy Dog Collar with flowers (available in pink and blue), P250

CHARMED Necklace, P200

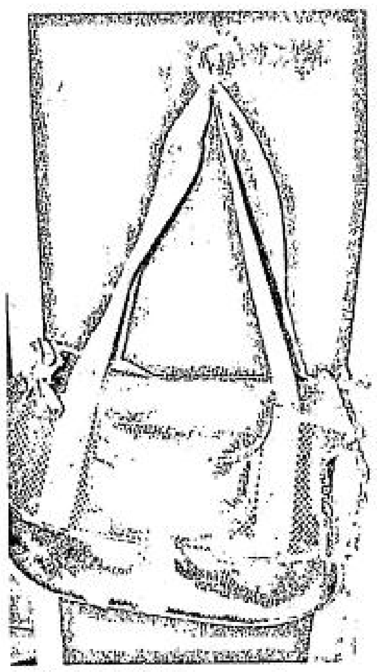


DOG plush carrier/bed, P4,000

FASHION from Dogs and the City

Have a doggone Christmas

Here are presents for pooch-lovers



METALLIC dog carrier (available in gold and silver), P850

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S ABOUT TIME THE "Busters" and "Tinkerbells" of the world receive a present this Christmas apart from leftover ham or gingerbread they usually get. Devoted dog-lovers will surely enjoy these unique collars, fashionable outfits, comfortable carriers, canine collages, personalized bag tags and even spa treatments. Here are some gift ideas from the best shops and the newest brands to hit the pooch market.

Bouche (boo-shay) chic collars (0918-9297862)

Coco material: Genuine leather, available in red, white and baby pink; XS (8"-11"), S (11"-14"), M (14"-18"), L (18"-22"); P300 (XS), P350 (S), P400 (M), P450 (L)

Donna material: Faux crocodile, available in bronze and gold; XS (8"-11"), S (11"-14"); P400 (XS), P450 (S)

Rafe material: Genuine leather and twill, available in pink, yellow, green; XS (8"-11"), S (11"-14"), M (14"-18"), L (18"-22"), XL (22"-26"); P400 (XS), P450 (S), P500 (M), P550 (L), P600 (XL)

Awesome pet shops at the Pet Village of Tiendesitas (flea-market style) Frontera Verde, Ortigas Ave., Ext. cor. C-5 Pasig City

Animals and things (0915-7437151, e-mail dorenemendoza@yahoo.com), Tiendesitas stalls 3 and 4, Pet Village

Old Navy dog collar with flowers, available in pink and blue, P250

Black and white paw—polka dots sofa bed, P3,300

Metallic dog carriers, P850, available in gold and silver

Yipyap, breath mints for dogs, P250

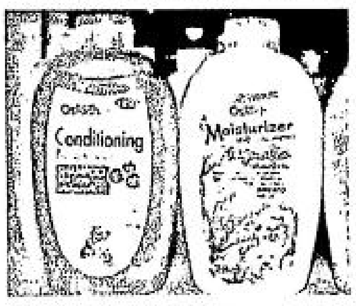
Sleeky dry shampoo powder, P300

Chinese dress, P850

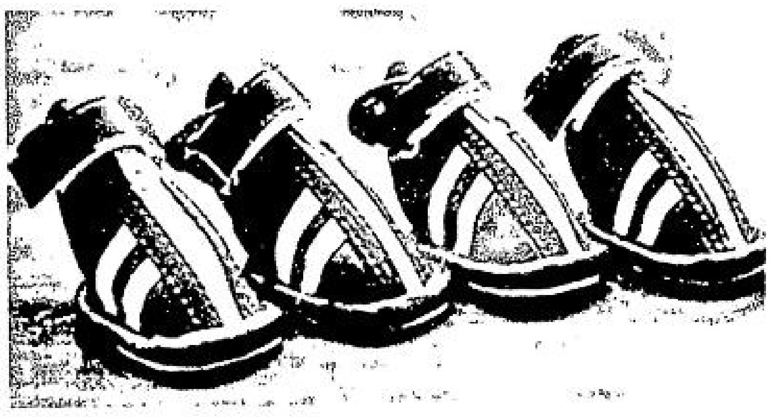
Pampet Fashion, imported from Thailand (visit www.pampet.com), available in different size with prices at P390, P530 and P820

BLACK-AND-WHITE paw polka dots sofa bed, P3,300

SLEEKY: Dry Shampoo Powder "Cleans pet without water!," P300



CONDITIONING blueberry 750ml, P495; moisturizer milk shampoo 750ml, P650



Y2 NAVY-BLUE shoes (XS/small, P700; medium/large, P800)

Dogs and the city (0917-8164705 or 0922-4094102, e-mail Dogs_and_the_city@yahoo.com), Tiendesitas stall 19, Pet Village

Ostech dog-care conditioning blueberry, 750 ml, P495

Moisturizer milk shampoo, 750 ml, available in Tulip, Magnolia and Lile, P650

Spa aroma shampoo, 750 ml, available in Camellia, Sunflower, Wild Flower and Frangipani, P500

Christmas jumper, P525 for size 3

Football club shirts, available in different sizes with prices at P250, P300, P350, P400

Black printed dog carrier, P1,500

Puppy panties, P250 (comes with free pantyliner)

Petspan (0927-4646755, 0927-3376650 or 7051645), Tiendesitas

Grooming, P500 and above, includes shampoo, shaving (abdomen and rear), styling (free clips), cleaning and plucking of ear hair, and nail cutting; extra charge for toothbrush, hair dye. Promo for short-haired, small-breed puppies P250 until Jan. 31.

Bao Lin stainless steel cage, secure, easy to pile up and noncollapsible, P12,000

Edel best-selling dog carrier, sturdy yet stylish, cool ventilation for puppy, P1,600-P2,200

Doggie booties, waterproof shoes with zippers made from high-quality material, size 1-5, P1,480 per pair

Large breed dog shirts, "I Am A Virgin," "Adidog," P980

Stainless-steel dish with detachable bowls and anti-slip, P650

Dog plush carrier, comfy, cozy carries that can be used as a bed, P4,000

Pooch Glamour by Belinda Chang (0917-847-4175 or visit http://pooch.fil.ph)

Pink satin party gown, comes in eight satin colors, available sizes for chihuahuas to shih tzus; accepts made-to-order, designs updated monthly

Yellow bathrobe, after showers and bubble baths of puppies and dogs; comes in yellow, pink, blue, green and purple

Sports tees for dogs, variety of colors, designs available for basketball jerseys, soccer and American football shirts

Paws tee, flannel fabric for sleepwear; prints on fabric limited stocks only

Beaded dog collars by Louis Claparols (0927-5978816)

Dog Beds by Nicole Miller, for the ultimate Canine luxe experience, available at Rustan's

Glamour Dog, beaded dog collars, dog clothes and accessories (0915-4399911, e-mail glamourdog@gmail.com, visit glamourdog.vstore.ca), 22 Aries St. Belair 3 Village Makati, beside Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, by appointment

Cherry ruffle tank shirt, available in sizes XXS, XS, small, medium and large; P230, P250, P300, P350

Honey dress, available in sizes XS, small, medium and large; P300, P350, P400

LA Girl pink shirt, available in sizes XXS, XS, small, medium and large; P250, P300, P350, P400

Y2 Navy Blue Shoes, X-small/small, P700; medium/large, P800

Collared shirt, orange, X-small/small, P700; medium/large, P800

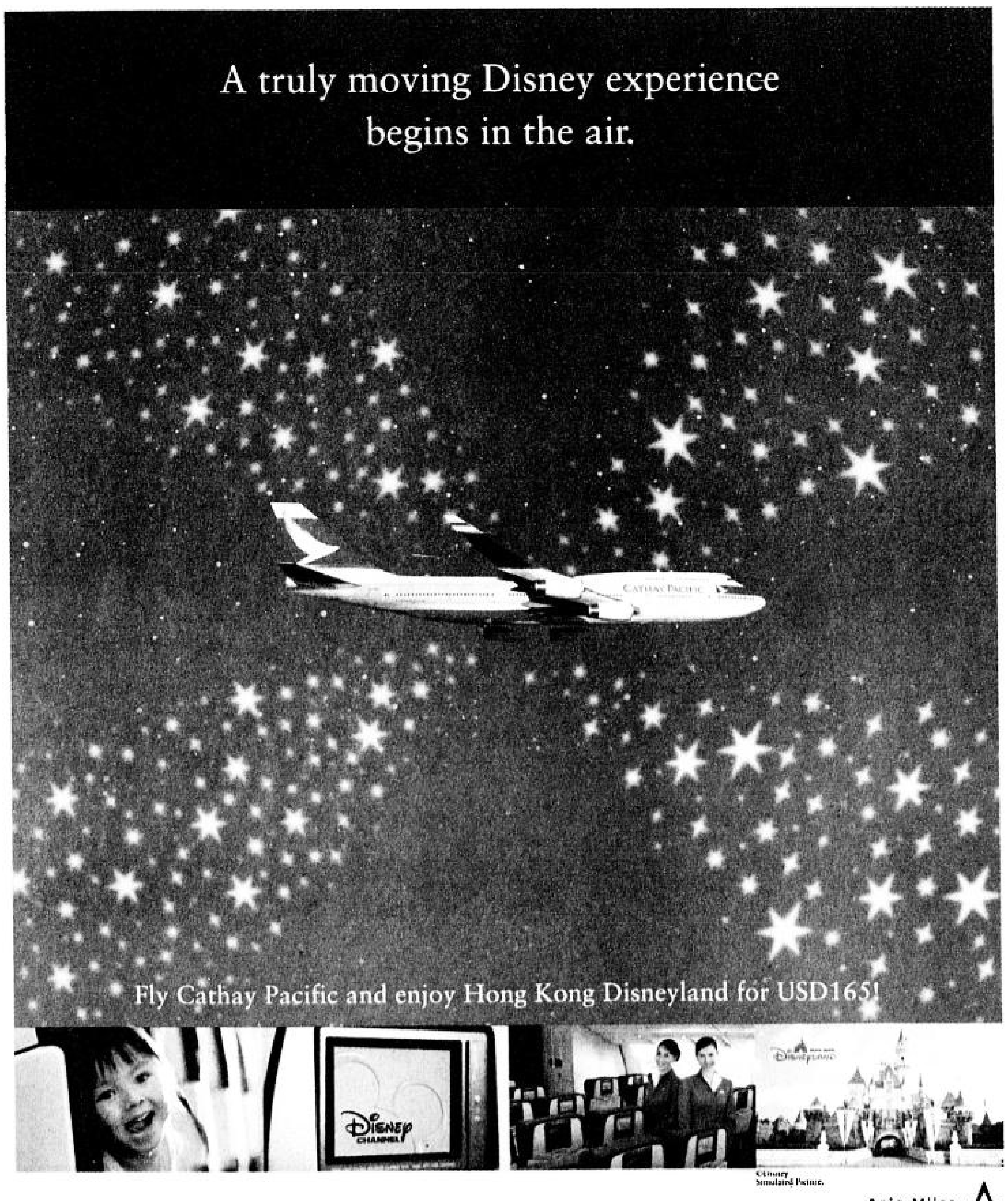
Green Blue Jersey, green with navy blue stripe. Jerseys are made from imported fabric; medium, P250

Pink plaid bed, 20" x 17", P1,200

Wilson Lee Flores lectures on campus press

MULTI-AWARDED COLUMNIST Wilson Lee Flores will be the guest speaker on Dec. 3, 1-3 p.m., before 300 outstanding high-school student writers and educators from Metro Manila at the Quintin Yuyitung Awards for Outstanding High School Journalism at the Little Theater of CKS College, Manila.

Winner of a record five Catholic Mass Media Awards and three Palanca literary awards, and Anvil Business Club president, Flores will speak on "Excellence and Social Idealism in Journalism." The award is named in honor of the late Quintin Yuyitung, past president of the Manila Overseas Press Club, publisher of the respected "Chinese Commercial News" and 1970s political detainee of the Marcos regime along with younger brother, Rizal Yuyitung.



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LIFESTYLE

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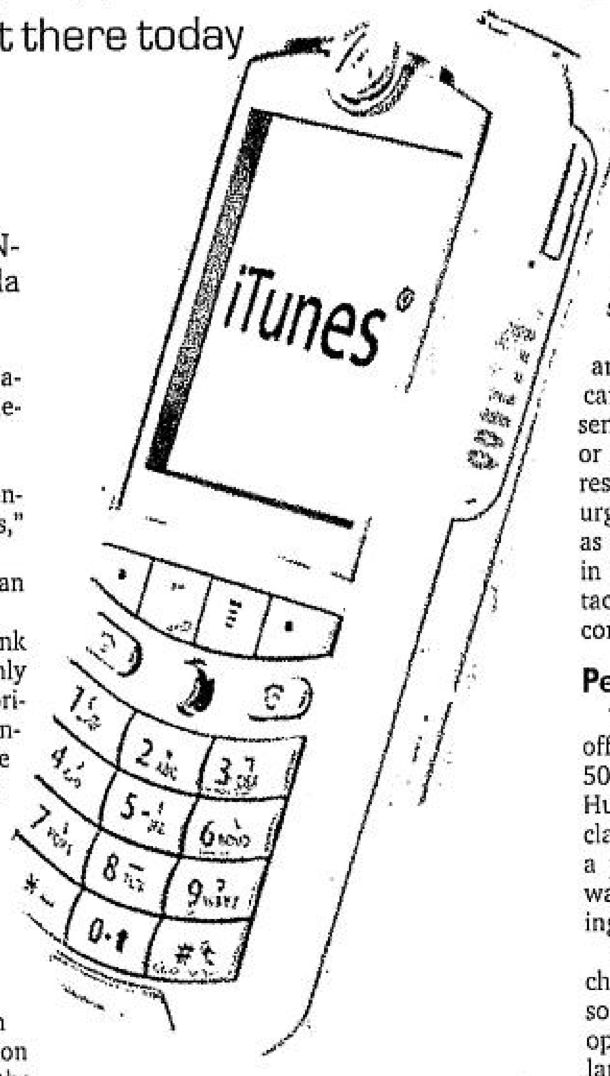
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Bring on the bling

Motorola's ROKR E1 is the hippest, funkiest mobile phone out there today



By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

I IMAGINE A COUPLE'S CONVERSATION about the Motorola ROKR would go like this:

Girl: This phone's got disco lights!

Guy: Yes there's GPRS, J2ME Programmability, WAP, an MPEG4 Decoder, MMS, Bluetooth, etc.

Girl: But it also has disco lights!

Guy: Oh hey, it's also the first iTunes-enabled Motorola phone. It can create "skins," intuitive SMS, etc. etc.

Girl: Honey, it's got disco lights! What can possibly top that?

Now, a few points. First, not all girls think like that. Second, that conversation can only likely happen at the Digital Exchange, Glorietta 3, Makati, site of the only Motorola Concept store in the country and the only place where you can find demo and live units for testing.

Third, she's right. After disco lights (the correct term is "rhythm lights," but I prefer disco), what else can they think of?

Biggest draw

Obviously, seamless connectivity with iTunes is the ROKR's biggest draw. The reason Motorola cooked up a deal with Apple in the first place is iTune's much ballyhooed money maker, "Music Store." As this is unavailable to us non-US dwellers, using it in this phone consists mostly of synching songs, images and podcasts. As such, the ROKR acts pretty much like an iPod in the connectivity sense.

When it comes to usability, the main difference is the data storage. While the included 256MB TransFlash Memory Card is impressive enough, it's still a pittance compared to the gigabytes an iPod user is used to, which has 2GB for its flash-based Nano.

So does the ROKR rock?

With limitations firmly in mind, yes. Not only does it rock, it bounces, hops and booms. Press the ROKR's keys, and it gives off a "booming" effect not unlike that of a deep-bass boombox. It's so unique it's hard to find words to describe it.

There are the standard keypad sounds which you can personalize. Pick from some 20 choices, including those for ringtones, alarms, SMS tones and whatever else there's reason to make a sound for.

Visually, tons of wallpaper, screen savers and themes are available, all of which you can edit yourself using the software. In this sense, it'd be a pity to keep the ROKR "stock," or use the default ones available. What self-respecting graphic "artist" would resist the urge to tweak that interface, rip sounds to use as ringtones, or make those disco lights flash in one's preferred fashion? You can even attach pics of your friends to their address book contacts!

Perfect visual

The ROKR website's music initially sounds off with a sticky beat reminiscent of Chingy, 50-cent and Snoop, rolling in gold-plated Hummers with 100-inch rims and scantily clad shorties aboard, all in slow motion. It has a photo of the ROKR with what looks like waves emanating from it, perfectly visualizing the "boombox" effect.

Press "find out more" and the music changes to a faster version of something that sounds from Coldplay, or more likely the opening riffs to a Foo Fighter song, in particular "Everlong."

Motorola's TV commercials feature "playas" wrapped in torn jeans, Adidas jackets, sneakers, afro, near-afro or super-afro hanging out with the dudes, rapping while their blings-bling and their boomboxes boom.

These hints should be enough to tell you what kind of person this phone was designed for. It's the hippest, funkiest mobile I've seen. Disco lights, remember?

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Effective November 28, 2005, Monday

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(ASB Realty, ASB Development, ASB Holdings, Caliraya Re-Creational Center)
has moved to:
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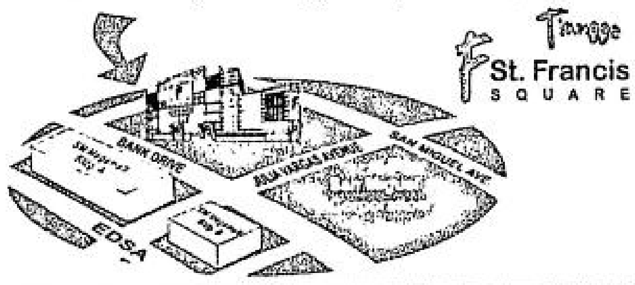
Julia Vargas Avenue corner Bank Drive,
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
(Behind SM Megamall)
You can contact us at:
632-1010 (connecting all departments)

St. Francis SQUARE



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Although its been said many times, many ways

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Techie treats

Here are drool-worthy gift ideas for those who live and breathe technology

By Gmeleen Tomboc
2bu! Correspondent

THERE'S MORE TO your favorite techie than his gadgets, but you can't deny that this person lives and breathes technology. Here's a rundown of possible gifts for him (or her), from the practical to the drool-worthy.

1. **A one year subscription to a techie magazine** like T3, Speed, mpH or PC World, so he can ogle the latest gadgets every day, every month.

2. **Spindles and spindles of CD-Rs and CD-RWs.** These are great for storing all those movies, songs and downloaded TV episodes. CD-R King retails a CD-R at P6, and a CD-RW for P7.

3. **Optical mouse.** Sweaty palms can ruin a touchpad, and using a trackpoint for more than three hours numbs the index finger. Snag an optical mouse for just P150 at CD-R King. You can even borrow it for your Powerpoint presentations.

4. **Bluetooth Dongle.** While most techies may have the latest Bluetooth-enabled gadgets, their PCs may still lack the technology. Get your gadget-freak friend an Omiz Bluetooth Dongle (P1,395) for transferring music and files sans wires.

5. **iDog.** Even a tiny animal like a Chihuaua needs food, bath and lots of hugs. But an iDog can subsist on a diet of sounds (and batteries) and will light up and dance when it hears music. It can even compose tunes when you wave your hand over its head. Any techie will appreciate this dog's low-maintenance company. Not bad for P2,900. Available at Complink.

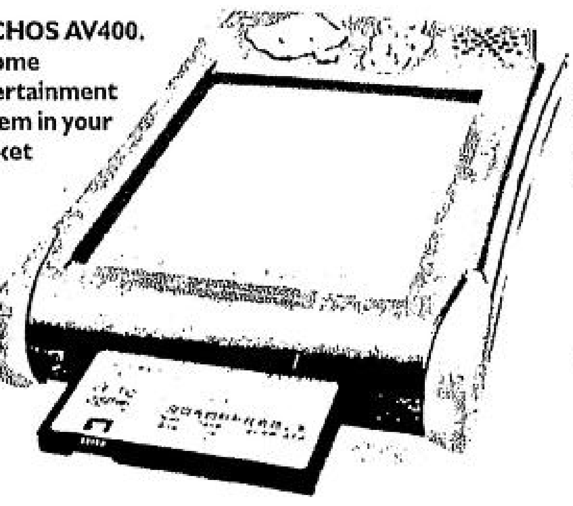
6. **SwissMemory USB.** When your friend goes camping and suddenly has to e-mail a document, he'll thank you endlessly for getting him a Swiss knife with a USB flash drive. Though a bit puny at 64 MB, it boasts of tiny scissors, a blade and a nail file. Hop over to Hahn and be ready to plunk down P4,899.75.

7. **iPod Nano 2 GB.** Easily on top of everyone's wishlist, an iPod would be great for listening to music in style. No thicker than a pencil, it can also display photos and carry 500 songs. Throw in a calendar, clocks and an address book. Now isn't P12,990 a small price to pay for making someone smile the whole year round?

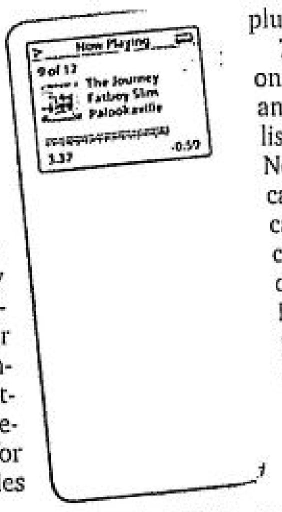
8. **iPod accessories.** What's better than an iPod? A dressed-up iPod. These accessories are no-brainer choices for any iPod-lover. Get her a SportWrap so she can still listen to her tunes while working out (P2,500) or an iPod sock in yummy colors like green, purple or blue (P400).

9. **Sony Ericsson K7501.** Upgrade his dinky camera phone with a 2.0 megapixel wonder. With 32 MB of memory, augmented by a 64 MB Memory Stick Duo, this phone can lug around important pictures and MP3s. There's even an FM radio to up the fun factor. And lest you forget, it's a phone, too, so your guy will inevitably think of calling you more often. Save up P24,700 for this one.

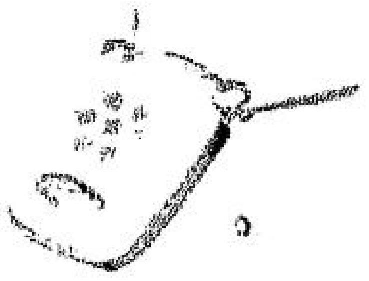
10. **Archos AV400.** An alternative to *gayuma*. It's a bit pricey at P31,000, but this might make someone beholden to you for the rest of her life. A pocket video recorder, the Archos AV400 can record up to 200 hours of TV programs or videos, or up to 130 full-length movies. On the go, you can watch videos, view photos and listen to and record music. It's like having a home entertainment system right in her pocket.



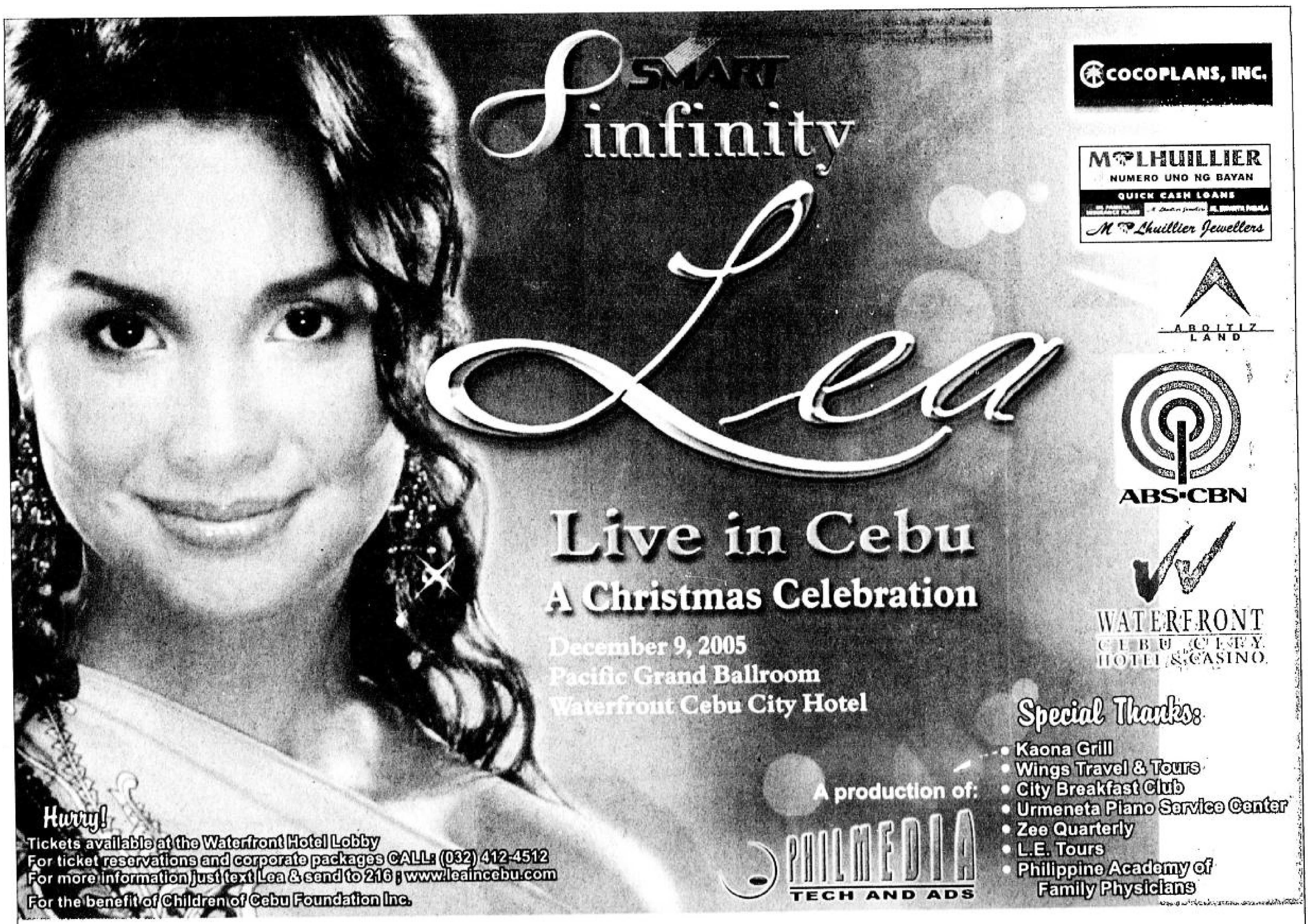
ARCHOS AV400. A home entertainment system in your pocket



IPOD NANO—it's on everyone's wishlist.



IDOG. Here's a pet you wouldn't have to pick up after.



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HUEVOS performing at Knight fundraising concert

BASI

HOURGLASS Eyes

Knights to remember

IN OLDEN TIMES, A KNIGHT WAS A warrior who served his king diligently and wholeheartedly. Today that definition can still apply to the Knights of the Altar of the Cathedral of the King church because they serve God and their church with the same fervor.

The Knights put together a rock concert recently to raise funds for their church and at the same time introduce new bands. The one-night-only event, dubbed "Knight to Rock," rocked the Valle Verde I clubhouse and brought together friends, families and rock lovers, young and old alike, for a fun, peaceful night of music.

Spotted among the crowd were PBA players Mac Cardona, Mark Telan, Nino Gelig and Coach Joel Banal of Talk N' Text.

Despite the stormy weather and flooding, the event was a certified success, due in large part to the producing and organizing skills of Knights Juan Banal and Gino Danan, the participation of 1A Productions, as well as the generous sponsorships of Talk N' Text, San Miguel Corp., Golden A and C2.

Knights who lent a big hand were Jeff Almedila, Karlo Cedol, Jamie Jorvina, Patrick de Mesa, Ron Lim and Gabriel Banal.

The opening acts were grunge band Hourglass Eyes and funk-jazz band Basi. The main act, Huevos kept the guitars ripping, the beats pumping and the energy going as they performed eight original songs, including "Leech," "Red Room," "Lord Knows" and the mesmerizing "1999," as well as covers of rock classics, including "Sweet Home Alabama," "Come Together" and "Hard to Handle."

Huevos, a group of friends who met through the church, is composed of lead guitarist John Ross Javier, drummer Daniel Taraya, bassist John Yanguas, and vocalist Miguel Banal.

Formed in 2003, Huevos won the ICA Battle of the Bands competition last year and has performed in Gweillos Eastwood, '70s Bistro, Indo Strip Bar, Merk's in Greenbelt, and at the recent Oktoberfest 2005 in Greenhills Promenade and Alabang Town Center.

The concert helped raise money so the masses of Cathedral of the King can continue to be aired on NBN 4 at 6 a.m. every Sunday.

We have a winner!

OUR INBOX WAS CLOGGED WITH hundreds and hundreds of e-mails from readers who all wanted to win the iPod Nano, but one person stood out.

Twenty-one-year-old Miguel Anton Garcia of Parañaque blew us all away by sending us his rewritten version of Duncan Sheik's "Barely Breathing."

I know what you doin'
I read it this morning
I've always wanted an iPod
And here's the chance from God
2bU! is so cool
O generous, they rule
Now the opportunity has come
For an iPod to be won
Music is always in my head
An iPod would be grand
It's the oxygen I breathe
2bU!, please hear my plea
...Pretty pleeeeeaaasse?
Chorus:
'Coz I really want that iPod
Dream come true for me
'Coz life is worth the living
With a Nano by my side
Oh boy, would I be thankful
If ever you chose me
I do suppose I'm worth the prize, worth the prize
The prize that you are giving away
So stop thinking it over, anyway..
I deserve that iPod, yeah yeah
...Pleeeaasse?

Because of his killer guitar skills and awesome singing voice, he will soon have his very own iPod Nano.

Miguel, please call Ching dela Cruz of PDI's marketing department at 8978808 for details on how you can claim your prize.

You, too, can be a winner like Miguel.

Win this phone!

This week, 2bU! and Digital Exchange are giving away a Motorola ROKR. If you want to join our contest, tell us why you deserve to win this phone in the most creative way you can. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget your name, school/office and contact info!

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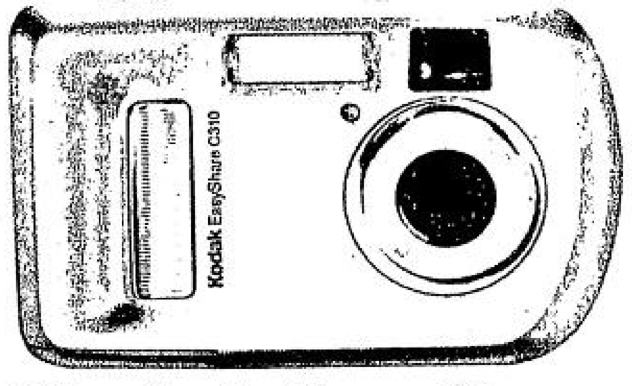

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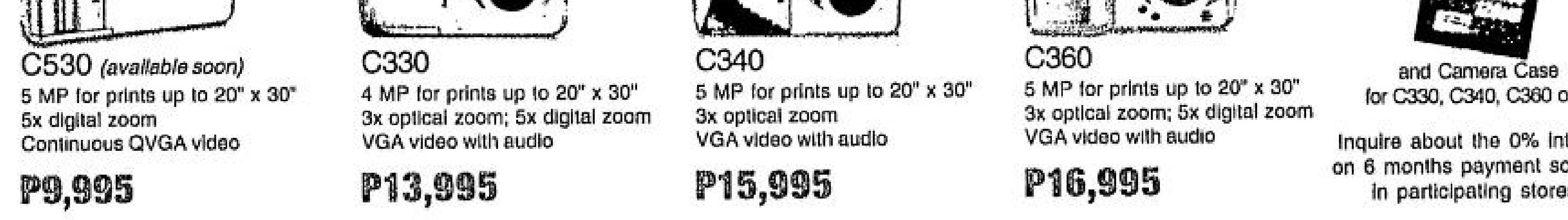

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   a. Subscription Lock-in is 12 months.
   b. Pre-termination Fee is 3 months worth of the Smart WIFI Plan Monthly Service Fee (MSF) subscribed to.
6. For Sales Inquiries: call *3888 toll-free from your Smart Cellphone.
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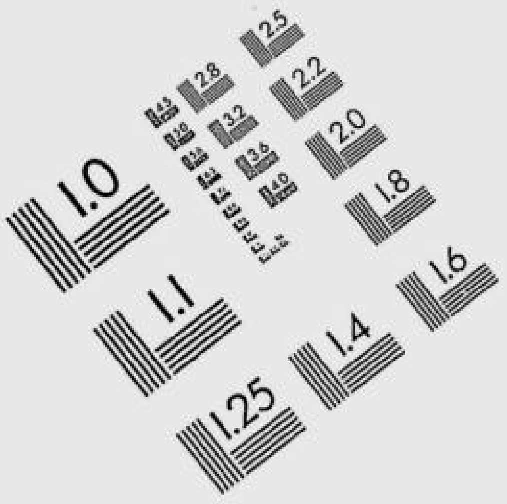
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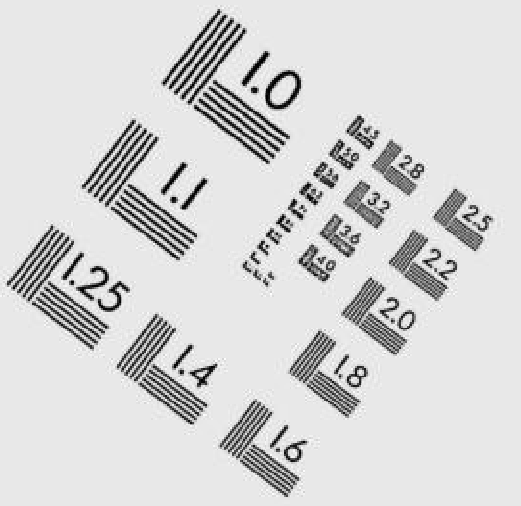
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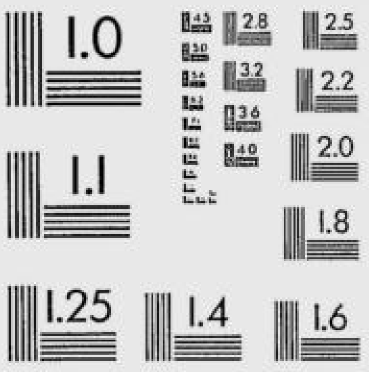
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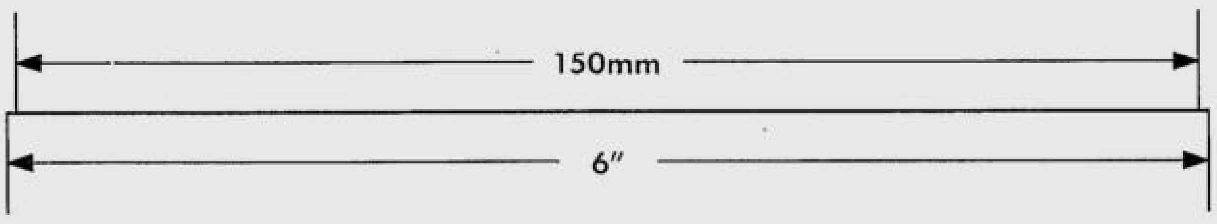

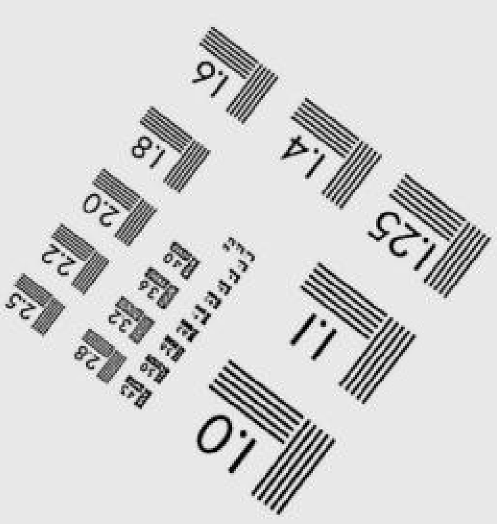
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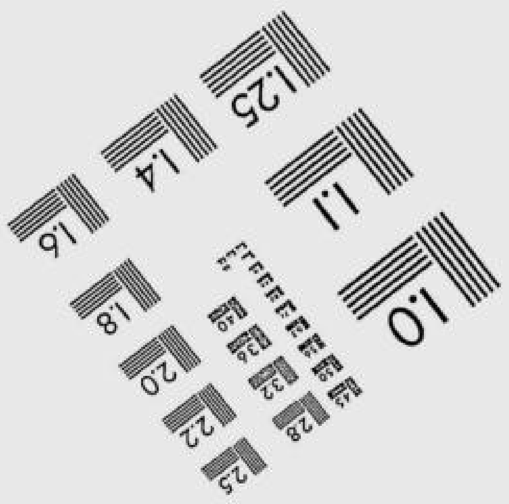
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METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

OCTOBER
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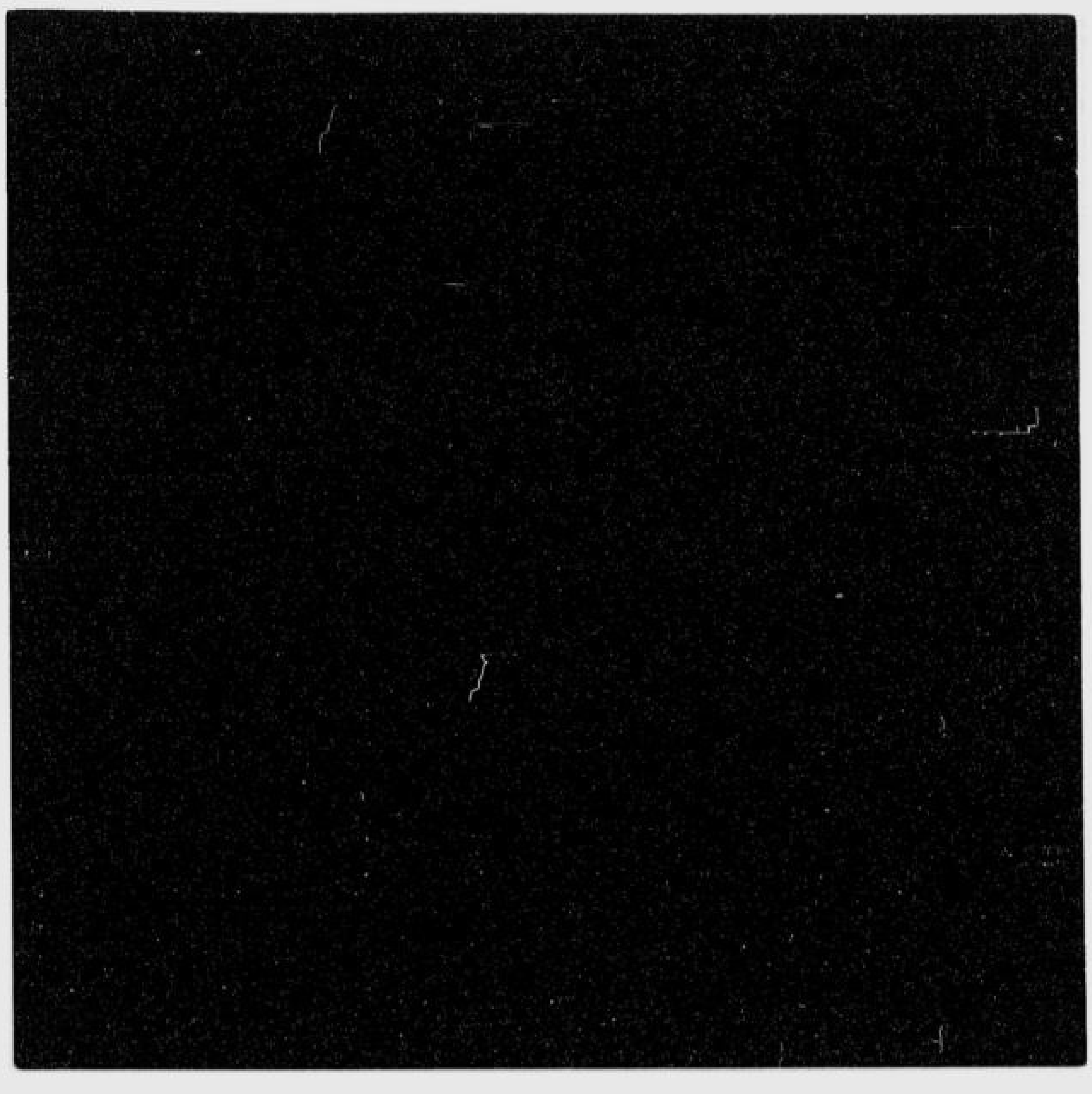

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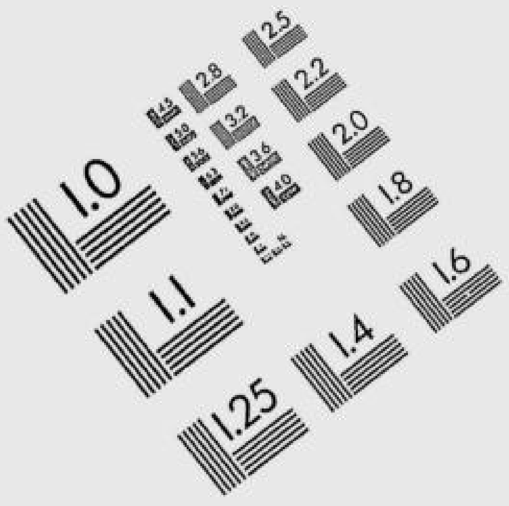
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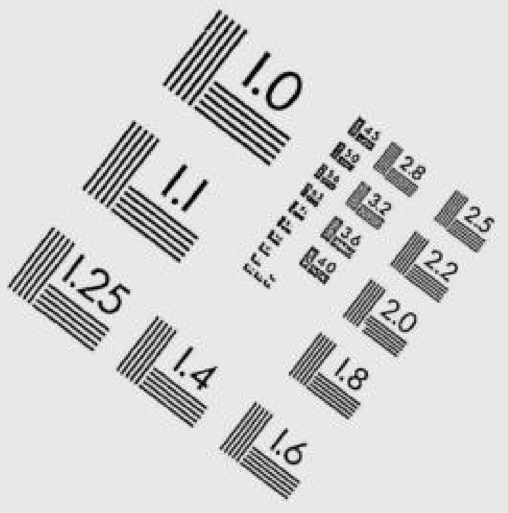
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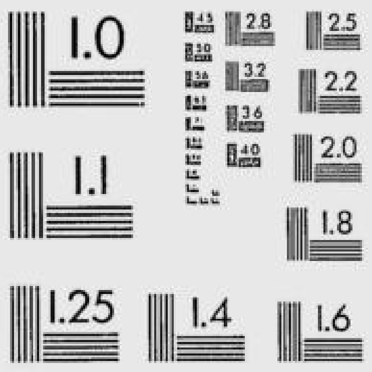
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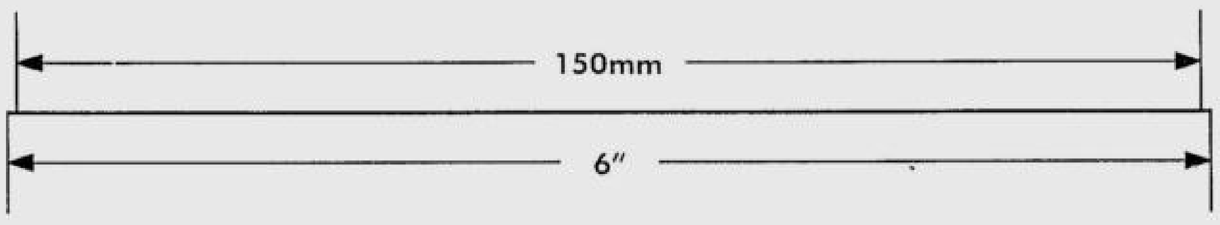

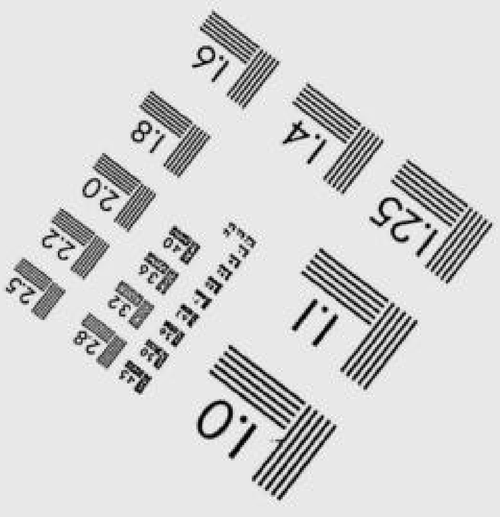
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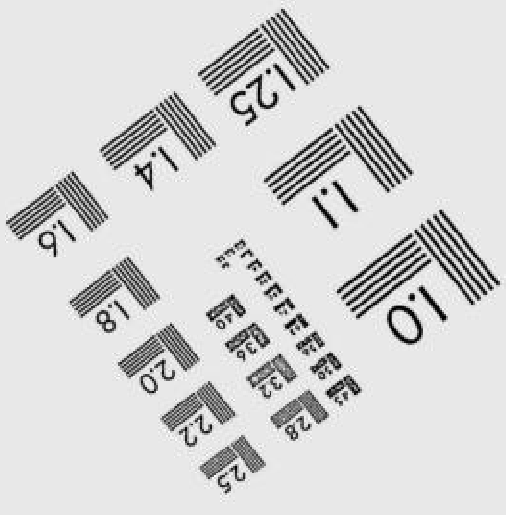
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■ SUPER / C2
Raise the Ruffa, 'the show biz Imelda'

■ SPORTS / A23
UAAP bans La Salle team official from the games for life

■ SATURDAY SPECIAL / A2-1
Aga displays fine thespic form in romantic tearjerker

■ WORLD / A8
Conservative John Roberts takes oath as US' 17th chief justice

46 retired officers rally behind defiant general

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Fe Zamora

A GROUP OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, including some involved in previous coup attempts, rallied behind an embattled general and a colonel who defied President Macapagal-Arroyo, and warned of growing restless-

46 RETIRED/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, October 1, 2005 ★★ 62 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 295 P18
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Pagcor funding bright kids, but do they have a choice?

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BAKA MAGING GAMBLING LORDS YAN!

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The government's "Bright Child" program is reared on gambling money.

According to an official of

PAGCOR/ A10

EDWIN BACASMAS

RETURN TO ANCESTRAL ROOTS. President Arroyo recalls her heroic forebears, Lakandula and Gen. Aniceto Tuazon, during the 8th founding anniversary of the Kaanak ng mga Bayani 1896 (Descendants of Heroes) at the Palace on Friday. *(Story on Page A4.)*

Cory hacienda deal scrapped

Land reform council led by GMA to have final say

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED DECISION, the Department of Agrarian Reform yesterday canceled the 16-year-old stock distribution option agreement of Hacienda Luisita, paving the way for the distribution to farmers of the nearly 5,000-hectare agricultural estate of the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

This is the first time that the government has cancelled a stock distribution agreement between farm workers and landowners since the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program started in 1988.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman adopted the recommendation of the Task Force Luisita and a special legal team to revoke the SDO on the ground that it had failed to improve the lives of more than 5,000 farmer beneficiaries.

"After 16 years of implementing the SDO at the hacienda, the department is saddened by the fact that the living conditions of the plantation workers did not improve. Worse, it deteriorated through the years, which is contrary to the vision of the CARP," Pangandaman told a press briefing.

The Hacienda Luisita Inc. immediately convened its legal team to map out a strategy against the government's decision to scrap the stock distribution plan that has kept the vast sugar estate in the Cojuangco family for 16 years.

HLI spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II said the decision did not come as a surprise because of the tenor of recent reports on the issue, but he maintained that there was no ground to revoke the agreement.

"After 16 years, why only now?" asked Mendoza, saying the DAR should have ques-

CORY/ A11

Why President issued 464: To answer 'politics of insults'

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

BUFFETED BY CRITICISM EVEN FROM HER allies, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she issued Executive Order No. 464 because her opponents had resorted to employing the "politics of insult."

Speaking for the first time two days after she issued the controversial order, the President said her opponents "transferred the battleground to the Senate" because they had been defeated in the House and in the streets.

"I have to put my foot down for the sake of the people, for the sake of enabling the government to work rather than be disabled by the politics of insult," she said at the 8th anniversary celebration of the "Kaanak 1896" held in Malacañang.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, whose committee on national security is looking into the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping scandal, proposed that Ms Arroyo meet with leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives to discuss a way to avert a crisis over EO 464.

WHY PRESIDENT/ A4

'Politics of survival'

A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE ROMAN Catholic Church of the Philippines yesterday added his voice to the general condemnation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, through his spokesperson Msgr. Achilles Dakay, said the EO encroached on the powers of Congress.

Dakay said Vidal feared that the EO might lead to what some groups had called "creeping martial law," and was bothered that the is-

POLITICS/ A4

Crame meeting sparks coup fears

By Luige A. del Puerto and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TOP POLICE GENERALS yesterday pledged to thwart any destabilization plots in an unexpected meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, which sparked fresh coup rumors and pushed market shares down.

Facing a renewed challenge to her rule, Ms Arroyo put off the launch of a vital transport project in Metro Manila so she could meet with the leaders of the Philippine National police.

The unannounced meeting at Camp Crame spooked the local stock market, causing shares to fall by 28 points.

Stocks bled for the third day this week as investors dumped their shares, unnerved by the meeting between the President and her PNP allies.

"Investors immediately cashed in on their gains just ahead of the weekend due to the destabilization rumor which was aggravated by the emergency meeting of President Macapagal-Arroyo with the PNP," Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings Inc., said.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange fell 1.43 percent or 28 points to 1,942.07.

Selling was heavy as total trades amounted to P893.33 million with 62 losers against 19 gainers.

"People want to stay liquid over the weekend. If things are quiet then the market will rally on Monday," a local stockbroker on condition of anonymity said.

Ms Arroyo stayed for one hour with her generals and committed her full support to two key points being pursued by the police—a raise in their subsidy allowance and a modification of the rules governing promotion.

In a statement, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao expressed the PNP's "unqualified support" for Ms Arroyo.

Before Ms Arroyo's visit, the police had reaffirmed their allegiance to the Arroyo presidency, saying they were aware that the country "seemed to be heading to the edge of instability."

Ms Arroyo and the generals discussed the controversial Executive Order No. 464, which prohibits senior officials in the executive branch to appear before any

CRAME/ A4

PDI PHOTO

NOT DOING A HYATT 10, Simeon Marcelo says his is a classic case of "burnout."

Ombudsman quits, cites health reasons

By Nelson F. Flores

THE COUNTRY'S TOP GRAFT buster, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, resigned yesterday, citing health reasons.

Marcelo, whose resignation takes effect on Nov. 30, quickly dismissed suggestions that he had quit because of disagreements over policy with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an interview, Marcelo swore that there was nothing "political or malicious" about his resignation, merely a classic case of "burnout."

"I'm really just tired," Marcelo stressed, adding that he expected his resignation to raise questions.

In his letter of resignation dated Sept. 30, Marcelo said that his 13-hour work schedule seven days a week since joining government in February 2001 had "exacted a heavy toll on my health, leaving me physically and men-

OMBUDSMAN / A10

Defense chief denies part in writing EO

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEFENSE SECRETARY AVELINO CRUZ JR. is playing down his role in crafting the controversial gag order that legal experts and lawmakers have denounced as unconstitutional.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Department of National Defense, Cruz was "consulted" but did not prepare the draft of Executive Order No. 464, which bars Cabinet officials, military officers and government executives from testifying at congressional inquiries without President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on Thursday that Cruz played an active role in drafting the EO along with Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

The press secretary named those behind the EO in the course of daring its critics to challenge its legality.

Even Ms Arroyo's staunch allies in Congress are against EO 464.

The statement, which again quoted

DEFENSE/ A4

PDI PHOTO

RICHARD GOMEZ: Haled to court on four counts of tax evasion.

DRIVE VS TAX EVASION

Goma first show biz 'big fish' charged

By Armand N. Nocum

ACTOR RICHARD GOMEZ BECAME the first show biz "big fish" to face the wrath of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which charged him with four counts of tax evasion yesterday before the Metropolitan Trial Court in Pasig City.

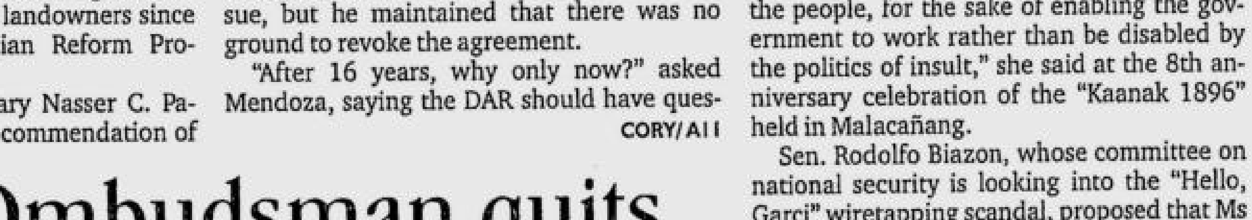
In a 14-page complaint, State Prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng said there were "reasonable grounds to believe that (Gomez) committed the violation for which he is being charged."

Bail was set at P20,000 for each of the four counts of tax evasion. If convicted, the ally of former President Joseph Estrada could land in prison with a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Chua Cheng said one strong evidence against Gomez was that he tried to belatedly file his income tax for the years 2000 to 2003.

"Thus, the absence of any evidence submitted by the respon-

GOMA/ A10



PDI'S BEST IN BUSINESS VOLTAIRE DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

Out of seven business journalism awards, the INQUIRER won four during the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines' 14th annual contest on Thursday. (From left) Raul Marcelo, INQUIRER Business editor; Clarissa Batino, reporter of the year for the telecom sector; Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, guest speaker; Doris Dumlao, best reporter for banking and finance; Abigail Ho, best reporter and best feature for the energy beat and Corrie Narisma, assistant Business editor. *(Story on Page A5.)*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

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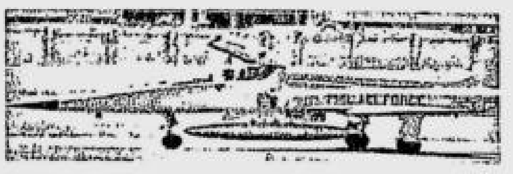
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, Typhoon "Maring" was located 920 km east northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 165 kph near the center and gustiness of 200 kph. It is forecast to move west at 19 kph. Intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) affecting Southern Luzon and Visayas.

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/09/30/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Air Force junks F-5 jets



By Nikko Dizon

CITING A SHIFT IN FOCUS AND LACK OF FUNDS, the Philippine Air Force announced yesterday it is junking the last five of its F-5 supersonic jet fighters, mainstay of the country's air defenses for the last 40 years that are now too old and too expensive to maintain.

The decision to junk the jets, also known as "Freedom Fighters," followed an assessment by the Department of National Defense (DND) that the country faces no serious external threat and would focus its resources on combating local communist and Muslim separatist rebels, PAF spokesman Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said.

Besides, he added, "we can't afford the expensive maintenance of the F-5s, so we have to prioritize."

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes is scheduled to lead the decommissioning ceremonies this morning at Basa Air Base in Pampanga where Brig. Gen. Manuel Natividad, Air Defense Wing commander, will take an F-5 on a symbolic final taxi and shut down its engine.

"*Siempre, ang* pilots, *masama ang loob at malungkot* (Of course, the pilots feel bad and are saddened), but we can't do anything about it," Padilla said in a telephone interview. "We understand that the government has to tighten its belt."

With the decommissioning of the supersonic fighters, the air force is left with the subsonic AS-211 jet trainer and light attack aircraft for air defense, Padilla said.

The Philippines has one of the most ill-equipped armed forces in the Asia-Pacific region, which patrol the nation's 7,000 islands with World War II-era navy boats and aircraft dating from the Vietnam War.

Soldiers fighting communist and Muslim rebels also depend on second-hand US-made trucks, assault rifles and other gadgets.

Padilla said about 100 million pesos ($1.8 million) allocated to upgrade and maintain the F-5 fighters under the 2005 budget was transferred to an air force program to buy several US-made UH-1H "Huey" helicopters of Vietnam War vintage.

A portion of the fund was used to maintain propeller-driven OV-10 planes, a counter-insurgency weapon in bombing and close air support operations, he added.

The Philippines had acquired 20 upgraded Huey helicopters from Singapore for nearly $12 million in July 2004 to strengthen its creaking air force.

Manila is still awaiting delivery of up to 10 Hueys from the United States, after paying $7.3 million for repairs to the aircraft last year.

The country has about 80 Hueys but only about 60 percent are in flying condition.

The Philippines was the first Southeast Asian country to enter the jet age in 1957 when the United States delivered the F-86D plane, known as the "MiG killer" for shooting down nearly 800 Russian-made MiG-15s during the Korean War.

In 1965, the F-86D "Sabre" was replaced by the F-5A/B "Freedom Fighter" when Washington delivered 23 of the low-cost and low-maintenance aircraft. Later, 11 more F-5s were added, including five transferred from the South Korean air force.

About 35 carrier-based F-8H "Crusader" planes were delivered to Manila in 1977 but were phased out in 1988 due to disrepair and several accidents that earned them the nickname "widow makers."

Padilla said the last time the F-5s were flown was during the 2002 RP-US Balikatan Exercises. And they were quickly mothballed after one of the planes crashed during the exercises.

According to a PAF statement, the F-5s flew interceptor and air reconnaissance missions over the disputed Kalayaan Island Group and over the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

Though primarily fighter aircraft, the F-5s were also used in ground attack roles in campaigns against the MNLF, MILF and the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao. They were also employed in counter-insurgency operations in Luzon and in the Visayas.

During the bloody 1989 coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, the F-5s neutralized rebel forces by bombing Sangley Point in Cavite, which they used as a staging area for attacks by T-28 planes, or the so-called Tora-Tora. *With a report from Reuters*

Concom seeks increase in funding

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER MALACAÑANG REvoked its controversial P50-million contract with a US lobby firm to get US funding for Charter change, the Consultative Commission for the revision of the 1987 Constitution has asked for an increase in its P10-million budget.

Secretary general Lito Lorenzana said they would need more funds to finance the regional consultations and more staff to complete their work within the three-month deadline imposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. This was according to a statement issued by Lorenzana after the Concom's second meeting last Thursday.

Ms Arroyo created the Concom to study and propose possible revisions in the Charter, including the shift from the presidential-unitary form of government to a federal-parliamentary system. She gave the Concom up to Dec. 15 to finalize the revisions which she would submit to Congress during the Charter debates.

Given an initial allocation of P10 million, Concom was mandated to conduct nationwide consultations to reflect the people's sentiments on what changes should be made in the Charter.

Concom commissioner Vicente Paterno warned the body to limit the sources of additional funds to government agencies.

He said this would prevent the Concom from being accused of favoring any entity when it makes its report.

Commissioner Gerry Espina, mayor of Naval, Biliran and a former congressman, said he objected to the raising of funds by the Concom.

"I think we should work on what we have," Espina told the INQUIRER.

On Espina's motion, the Concom members changed the committee on ways and means to the committee on accounts to handle the commission's expenses.

"I thought it should not be a committee on ways and means because we are not raising money," Espina said.

Lorenzana said the Concom would seek additional funding from Malacañang and Congress.

"We do not want the burden of the budget to be part of our job. We leave the judgment (on financial needs) to the Presidential Management Staff because they know better," he said in the statement.

Lorenzana said that because the PMS lacked personnel, it would source additional staff from the Development Academy of the Philippines for the Concom's secretariat needs, including stenographers who would keep records of the meetings and plenary sessions.

The Concom, which has 42 members, met twice this week after being formally convened last Wednesday.

Palace-Drilon word war continues to rage

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON Ignacio Bunye has accused Senate President Franklin Drilon of deceiving the President. Not to be outdone, Drilon has accused Bunye of lying and doing a "hatchet job" on him as a result of the Senate investigations.

A source close to President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo wanted Drilon out as Senate president before the end of the year because of his antagonism toward her and her programs.

Bunye had questioned Drilon's hand in the "investigations in aid of destabilization" being made by the Senate. He said Drilon convinced the President to break her silence on the "Hello, Garci" tapes in June and even helped draft her "I am sorry" speech.

Bunye said it turned out that Drilon set up Ms Arroyo because days after, he called for the resignation of the President and was now behind the Senate investigations that were practically an impeachment trial of the President.

In rebuttal, Drilon said in a statement: "I pity Press Secretary Toting Bunye for having to resort to intellectual dishonesty in the performance of his job as the chief apologist of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Drilon said Bunye was doing a hatchet job on him because of the Senate investigation on the allegedly overpriced and anomalous North Railway project.

PISTA ng GITNANG LUZON
SM City Marilao, Bulacan October 1-15, 2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1 (Saturday) OPENING
1:00 P.M. - Parade of Region 3 provinces and major cities, Parade of Street Dancing, Cultural shows, band and acoustic shows

October 2 (Sunday) AURORA
Street dancing, Komedya De Baler, Ilongot Dance Ritual, Cultural Presentation, Ascot Street Dancers, Fashion Show, Dance Drama, San Luis Folkloric Group, Pangkat Kawayan, re-enactment of the Siege of Baler, Finale, Travel Mart Show bands

October 3 (Monday) AURORA
Street Dancing, Fashion Show, Ilongot Dance Ritual, Dance Drama, San Luis Folkloric Group, Pangkat Kawayan, Re-enactment of the Siege of Baler, Komedya de Baler, Wesleyan Street, Dancers/Finale, Travel MART, Show Bands

October 4 (Tuesday) TARLAC SHOWCASE
Malatarlak Street Dancing, Tarlac State Univ. Performing Arts, TSU Brass Bands, Cultural Shows, Show Bands, Acoustics, Provincial Travel Mart

October 5 (Wednesday) TARLAC SHOWCASE
Malatarlak Malatarlak Street Dancing, Tarlac State Univ. Performing Arts, TSU Brass Bands, Cultural Shows, Show Bands, Acoustics, Provincial Travel Mart

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October 6 (Thursday)
CDC/SBMA/OLONGAPO CITY SHOWCASE
Street Dancing, Legenda Dance Troop, Bellestar Promotion, Sta. Rita Elem. Drum & Lyre, Olongapo City Nat'l H.S Dance Troupe, Olongapo City Gov't Choir, Extreme Band, Acoustics, Provincial Travel Mart

October 7 (Friday) CDC/SBMA/OLONGAPO CITY SHOWCASE
Street dancing, Legenda Dance Troop, Bellestar Promotion, Sta. Rita Elem. Drum & Lyre, Olongapo City Nat'l H.S Dance Troupe, Olongapo City Gov't Choir, Extreme Band, Acoustics, Provincial Travel Mart

October 8 (Saturday) NUEVA ECIJA/SAN JOSE CITY SHOWCASE
Tanduyong Festival Troupe Constancio Padilla Nat'l HS, Tayabo Elem. School, Harana Group, Show Bands, Acoustics, Travel Mart, Concert

October 9 (Sunday) BATAAN SHOWCASE
Tribong Linang ng Abucay, Bayani at Banal, Kundiman at Kagitingan, Abucay Street Dancers, Samal Street Dancers, Travel Mart, Show Bands

October 10 (Monday) BULACAN SHOWCASE
Hiyas ng Bulacan Brass Band, Bulacan State Univ. Performing Arts, Coro Basilica de Minore, Sining Bulakeno Street Dancing, Hagonoy Street Dancing, Hagonoy Cultural Show, Acoustics, Provincial Mart

October 11 (Tuesday) PAMPANGA SHOWCASE
Federation of Senior Citizen Assoc. of Pampanga Cultural Performers, San Matias H.S, Dance Troupe, Pampanga Capitol Choir, Show Bands Acoustics, Provincial Mart

October 12 (Wednesday)
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO SHOWCASE
Magsilbi Tamu Banda 919 Concierto, Batuin Fernando"Cultutar Show", UP'S-"Balenkung Tibuan", "Giant Lantern Festival"

October 13 (Thursday) ZAMBALES
Street Dancing (Dinamulag Festival), Musical & Cultural Night

October 14 (Friday) BULACAN SHOWCASE
Hiyas ng Bulacan Brass Band, Bulacan State Univ. Performing Arts, Coro Basilica de Minore, Sining Bulakeno Street Dancing, Hagonoy Street Dancing, Hagonoy Cultural Show, Acoustics, Provincial Mart

October 15 (Monday) CLOSING
All Provinces, Travel Mart, Concert

For inquiries please call:
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Why President issued 464: To answer …

From page A1

He told a press briefing that while he considered the order unconstitutional, "there must be an agreement among the three on how to provide the mechanism for a system that will avoid further institutional confrontation."

Echoing Biazon, administration Sen. Richard Gordon said Ms Arroyo should take the lead in initiating talks with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia "in a neutral area."

"These people have worked together before," Gordon said. "I propose that avenues be opened for dialogue, for discussion, for compromise, so that we will understand each other."

Apparently referring to accusations of election fraud leveled at her, the President told Kaanak 1896 that everyone "want[ed] the truth."

"But the truth must be found in a forum where the rule of law is observed, where the accused has the right to present a defense in accordance with time-tested regulations," she said.

She warned that her opponents had been trying to create a "kangaroo court" to try her, which, she warned, would bring about "confusion leading to a situation where it's easy to have a power grab."

The President urged the group, whose members comprise descendants of those who fought in the revolution against Spain, that they should not allow this power grab to happen.

"*Sayang naman yung pinagsakripisyo ng inyong mga ninuno* (It would be a waste if the sacrifices of your ancestors would be for naught)," she said.

The group, led by former Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay, presented Ms Arroyo a resolution expressing support for her administration.

The President thanked the group for its efforts to keep history alive and to instill in the youth and the public in general a "sense of nationhood" by telling stories of how their ancestors fought against colonizers.

"Because what is the truth? The truth is that we are such a divided nation—it's like two Philippines and not one Philippines," she said.

She reiterated that one Philippines was one whose economy was poised to take off and that the other was "the poisoned Philippines, the poisoned political system manifested by those who seek in fact to use this situation to grab power."

EO 464 bars government executives and police and military officials from testifying at Congress hearings without the President's permission.

Echoing what her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said the other day, Ms Arroyo said these hearings were being used "in aid of destabilization."

"The situation is manipulated by projecting speculation, hearsay and half-truth as proven fact in contribution to those who want to grab power," she said.

Gordon did not discount the possibility that EO 464 could be part of the administration's push for a unicameral Congress. "I suspect that they are trying to lay the predicate for an abolition of the Lower House or the Upper House because some people are advocating unicameralism," Gordon said, adding:

"We must be careful to watch the tea leaves because most of the time people are creating a scenario to lay the predicate for a bigger agenda.

"It could be an agenda for unicameralism. It could be an agenda to cover up on the part of the President. It could be an agenda on the part of the Senate to try and extend the impeachment [proceedings]."

GMA: Blood of heroes runs in Arroyos' veins

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ACCIDENTAL HEROES?

As the opposition continues to accuse President Macapagal-Arroyo of many things unheroic, she turns the spotlight on her and her husband's ancestral roots.

In her speech during the 8th anniversary celebration of "Kaanak 1896," Ms Arroyo told the descendants of national heroes that she and her husband could trace their ancestral roots to some of the country's defenders.

"One of the reasons I feel close to Kaanak is because we are descendants of Lakandula. The Spaniards feared him so much they did not include (Manila) in the sovereignty of Spain and they left the autonomous fiefdom that did not pay taxes or cedula to the Spanish government," the President said.

Rajah Lakandula is one of three Muslim kings of Manila during the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors looking for a suitable place for the capital in 1570. Lakandula made a peace pact with Governor General Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and handed over the throne to the Spanish.

Ms Arroyo also eagerly told of her husband's grandfather, Gen. Aniceto Lacson, who won over the Spanish forces in the Negros Revolution, and later declared himself president in that area before the Philippine-American war.

No 'executive privilege' for witnesses to crime–Bernas

By Armand N. Nocum

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS who have witnessed supposed irregularities cannot hide such crimes by citing "executive privilege" when they are asked to testify at congressional inquiries, constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas said yesterday.

Bernas, a columnist of the INQUIRER, also said the Supreme Court would be the final body to determine whether government transactions should be kept under wraps because of the principle of executive privilege.

"If the anomaly is already done, it's not a matter of [executive privilege]. The planning or the discussion of whether it should be done or not—that's a matter of privilege. But once it's done, it's a matter of public interest," he said in an interview over dzMM radio.

Bernas was reacting to reports that former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman was planning to tell all regarding the alleged corruption in the Arroyo administration, and questions on whether she or other ex-Cabinet officials could be prevented from talking on the basis of executive privilege.

The Jesuit priest said the Constitution was clear in that "the people have the right to be informed on matters of public interest."

But he said the matter of public interest was "defined in a very broad manner by the Supreme Court."

According to the tribunal, "public concern, like public interest, is a term that eludes exact definition," he said, adding:

"Eventually it's the court that decides which [issue] is a matter of public interest."

Politics of survival, say critics

From page A1

sue had to be brought to the Supreme Court.

He also said the cardinal was worried that if the decision of the tribunal would favor the executive branch, some sectors might begin to doubt the judiciary.

Survival

According to an administration senator who asked not to be named, the President issued EO 464 to maintain the loyalty of the Armed Forces and her Cabinet officials and thus ensure her political survival.

The senator said Ms Arroyo would lose the support of the AFP if she did not step in to prevent the generals and other military officers from being grilled about allegations of their role in cheating in the 2004 elections.

He said that if the generals were summoned to the Senate and forced to talk about poll fraud, they would fan demoralization in the AFP and force it to turn against her.

"[The President] was able to consolidate whatever [military] support she has because with the EO, the generals are now protected. They no longer have to answer accusations [about their hand in poll fraud] because the President will make sure they will not be questioned," the senator said.

He said that by taking up the cudgels for the military, Ms Arroyo also conveyed a message to the public: "that the AFP is behind her."

He also said the President was forced to issue the EO to prevent any more desertions by Cabinet officials, who are also being questioned about alleged anomalous transactions of her administration.

The senator said Ms Arroyo should now revoke EO 464 to prevent a confrontation with the Senate.

"She can revoke it. Anyway, it already had its effect," he said.

Arrogance

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said EO 464 was a display of "arrogance of power" and was out of sync with the basic tenets of democracy—transparency and accountability.

"Who will now check the excesses and anomalies of her (Ms Arroyo's) government? Who will now act as the fiscalizer?" he said in an interview Thursday night.

Golez, who served as the President's national security adviser starting in 2001 until he ran for Congress in 2004, said he had suggested to House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles that the condition existing prior to the issuance of EO 464 be observed to prevent a full-blown constitutional crisis.

Golez chided Ms Arroyo for empowering the AFP chief of staff and the chief of the Philippine National Police to determine who should and should not testify at congressional inquiries.

"Is the PNP chief now higher than Congress?" he said.

Paranoia

In Lucena City, where he was a guest of the Quezon Forum, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo described EO 464 as a manifestation of Ms Arroyo's "paranoia."

Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, another guest at the forum, said the President was "obviously, intentionally, courting constitutional crisis."

"Malacañang has kept on denying that it does not intend to declare martial law, but it keeps on provoking the people to create the atmosphere conducive for the declaration of martial rule," Cayetano said.

Violations

The lawyers' group Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) said the President again violated the Constitution when she issued the EO.

"The President must cite the constitutional basis—a specific constitutional provision, to be exact—of its claim to 'executive privileges' in order to justify its violation of other constitutional provisions," the group said in a statement.

Members of Codal were among the first to look into the impeachable offenses allegedly committed by Ms Arroyo, which added to the political crisis that cast serious doubts on the legitimacy of her presidency.

But Andres Bautista, president of the Philippine Association of Law Schools and dean of the Far Eastern University Institute of Law, said EO 464 was constitutional because "Congress' question hour is compulsory in a parliamentary system, and not in our current form of government."

"I also don't think it's a gag order because all officers in the executive [branch] reports to the President," he said.

Bautista said, however, that the EO would lead to an inevitable showdown at the Supreme Court.

"But I think Malacañang will have a a difficult time convincing the Supreme Court that the order is not meant to curtail Congress' power to investigate," he said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Crame meeting sparks coup fears

From page A1

congressional inquiry without her approval, and the prospects of more anti-Arroyo mass actions.

After the meeting, Lomibao said he and his men would stick by EO 464 even if they were summoned by Congress to an inquiry on the "jueteng" illegal numbers game, to which some members of the Arroyo family had been linked by gambling operators.

Duty-bound

"We are duty-bound as members of the executive department to do that," he said.

"We have to ask permission from the President before we can attend hearings of congressional bodies."

Lomibao himself has appeared in the Senate inquiry into jueteng. There is also a pending Senate inquiry into the raid of an opposition safe house in San Mateo, Rizal. At least two police officers have appeared in that inquiry.

Originally, Ms Arroyo was to have attended the launch by the Metro Manila Development Authority of its Organized Bus Route scheme. Up to 6 a.m. yesterday, some MMDA officials were telling the INQUIRER that the event would push through.

Without Ms Arroyo in attendance, the launch was postponed.

It was the first time this year that Ms Arroyo had attended a police command conference, a quarterly meeting attended by all the regional police chiefs, the heads of the national support units, and the members of the command group.

Meal allowances

Ms Arroyo assured the generals of her intention to raise the police's meal allowance from P60 to P100 a day, and promised to stand by the PNP position in the contentious issue of the Civil Service Eligibility Exam, Lomibao said.

"She is also in full support of the position of the PNP as regards the CSEE issue," Lomibao said. "We have made our recommendation to the Napolcom (National Police Commission), and the Napolcom will recommend it to the CSC (Civil Service Commission)."

Lomibao did not want to discuss the PNP's position.

Under new rules, a police officer must pass the CSEE, a three-hour, 200-question exam, in order to qualify for promotion to senior superintendent or the equivalent of a full colonel in the military.

A junior officer familiar with the issue said the stand of the PNP is to scrap the exam, administered by the CSC, in favor of a similar exam to be administered by Napolcom.

Cause of unrest

Early this year, several junior officers had told the INQUIRER how the CSEE requirement was being applied selectively.

The issue of promotion has always been the "cause of grumbling" and of discontent in the police force, a senior officer said.

Lomibao said Ms Arroyo's visit was "not a loyalty check."

The Crame visit occurred two days after Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan defied Ms Arroyo's direct orders to seek her approval before appearing in a Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Lomibao said Ms Arroyo had always been invited to attend a command conference, being the ultimate chief of the police and military.

"But this time she would like to touch base with the troops. She would like to find out the issues and concerns that are affecting the PNP—their morale and welfare, promotions, and [to discuss] things that are relevant to present times," Lomibao said.

Statement of support

A PNP official said he had heard on Thursday night that Ms Arroyo might attend the Crame meeting but it was only yesterday morning that he learned she was definitely coming.

Hours before Ms Arroyo's visit, Lomibao issued a firmly worded statement of support for the President.

It read: "The PNP, consistent with its mandated duty under the Constitution and the laws of the land, hereby reiterates its full allegiance and loyalty to the Republic of the Philippines under the governance of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, [and] restates its … belief in the rule of law and the fundamental principle of peace and restraint, and unequivocally reaffirms its support and cooperation to her excellency's programs of action and vision of a Strong Republic."

The fourth paragraph of the statement appeared to explain the reason behind the statement.

It said that the PNP "is aware of the present political situation that seems to be heading the country to the edge of instability and leading to … the state of confusion brought about by those who are motivated by their ill-desire to throw the country off balance."

The statement added: "Each and every member of the PNP abhors the idea of resolving the crisis through extra-constitutional means and [assures] that any further step at destabilization and anarchy on the streets shall be addressed accordingly by uncompromising police action consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations."

Lomibao said he and Ms Arroyo never discussed the subject of martial law during the Crame meeting.

"We never discussed martial law at any time. It is a non-issue." he said.

Defense chief denies part in writing EO

From page A1

Bunye, said: "The draft of EO 464 was prepared by the Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel in consultation with the Justice Department and the Office of the Solicitor General.

"As one of the lawyers sitting in the Cabinet, Defense Secretary Cruz was also consulted to comment on some constitutional issues involved in the presidential issuance."

Trusted adviser

Cruz refused to give an interview yesterday. And the DND public information office did not elaborate on the statement.

Cruz is known to be one of the President's trusted advisers.

A former partner at the Villaraza law firm, which is identified with the First Couple, Cruz joined Ms Arroyo's Cabinet in 2001 as chief presidential legal counsel.

He was appointed defense secretary in September 2004, on the recommendation of the Feliciano Commission that a civilian should head the defense department. The commission investigated the July 2003 "Oakwood mutiny."

Malacañang issued EO 464 on Wednesday, the day Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan testified before the Senate on alleged irregularities during the last elections.

On Tuesday, Cruz phoned Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to say the President had prohibited their appearance at the Senate hearing on the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping scandal.

No longer team member

Gudani and Balutan defied the order; as a result, they were relieved of their posts and are now facing court-martial.

During a visit to the INQUIRER main office last August, Cruz said he was no longer an active member of the President's legal team.

He said he did not give legal advice to the President on how to address the "Hello, Garci" scandal, and was not involved in the drafting of her "I am sorry" speech last June 27.

Cruz also said he had had no time to go over the "Hello, Garci" tape, which sparked accusations of election fraud, because he was busy with his work at the DND.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 1, 2005
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Bar 4:5-12,27-29
Gospel:	Luke 10:17-24

The seventy-two disciples returned full of joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we called on your name." Then Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. You see, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the Enemy, so that nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the evil spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and made them known to the little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. I have been given all things by my Father, so that no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them privately, "Fortunate are you to see what you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings would have liked to see what you see but did not, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Commentary

It seems there are seventy-two disciples and they come back in joy! Jesus reminds them that he has shared his own power and authority over evil, his own strength and grace with them and that nothing can really harm them, (though that doesn't mean that they do not know rejection, suffering and persecution as he did-the cross). And Jesus prays aloud for the small of the earth, those without learning and influence who are taught wisdom by God: these are the poor, the sick, dying, rejected and without rights, spurned by the earth and struggling to just survive, hoping for life and desperate for God. This is the mystery of the Trinity—that only Jesus knows the Father and it is he who reveals him to those he chooses to-and that only the Father knows Jesus. Yes, we are blessed, like the disciples and those who knew Jesus because he has revealed the Father to us-in the Word of Scriptures that reveals his presence as surely and powerfully as does the Eucharist, in the poor and those who struggle to be a voice for God in the world. We've seen and heard!

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Inquirer reporters bag 4 of 7 business journalism awards

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER bagged four of seven business journalism awards during the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines' (EJAP's) 14th annual tilt held Thursday night at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Business reporter Doris C. Dumlao was named best reporter for her coverage of the banking and finance beat for 2004. This is the fifth for Dumlao, who covers the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Clarissa S. Batino was also named reporter of the year for the telecommunications sector, her seventh award from EJAP. Batino was named best journalist for her coverage of the trade and industry beat in 1996 and for her stint in the energy sector in 1998 and 1999. She won best reporter for banking in 2000 and 2003. In 2000, her article on the "Mindanao Crisis Taking Toll on the Economy" was cited as the best feature story.

Abigail L. Ho clinched her second and third EJAP awards Thursday night as best energy reporter and best in feature for her article "Time running out in averting power crisis" last year. Ho won her first EJAP award in 2001 as best telecom reporter.

Other awardees were Rocel Felix of Philippine Star as best reporter for agriculture, Jennee Rubrico of BusinessWorld as best capital markets reporter, and Felipe Salvosa II of BusinessWorld as best reporter for trade and industry.

This year's judges were former Finance undersecretary and former Ford Foundation executive director Milwida Guevara; former Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr.; Rolando Dy, executive director of the University of Asia & the Pacific's center for food and agribusiness; Jose Vistan Jr., analyst at AB Capital Securities, and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) director for corporate affairs Fe dela Cruz. Accounting firm SGV and Co. tabulated the results.

The EJAP Awards has been supported by telecom giant Globe Telecom Inc. as major sponsor for the sixth straight year.

Asean creates fund to fight bird flu

TAGAYTAY CITY – SOUTHEAST Asia's agriculture ministers approved the creation of a regional fund to fight bird flu and other animal diseases, officials said yesterday, as the United Nations warned the virus could mutate and kill up to 150 million people.

They said the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) would also endorse a global plan to contain avian influenza, which has killed 66 people in four Asian countries since late 2003 and led to an estimated $15 billion in losses for the poultry trade.

"The creation of the animal health trust fund has been approved," Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban.

The fund would also be used to prevent the spread of other illnesses affecting animals, such as foot-and-mouth disease and hog cholera, other officials have said.

The World Health Organization, the UN health agency, said on Thursday that if the bird flu virus spreads among humans, the quality of the global response would determine whether it ended up killing five million people or as many as 150 million. *(See other story on page 9.)*

Experts say lack of funds is hampering the fight against bird flu in Asian countries such as Indonesia, where a fifth victim died on Monday.

Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said Asean would also endorse the global bird flu plan proposed by the world animal health body OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WHO.

The three agencies plan to hold a bird flu conference in December to try to raise the $102 million they say is needed over the next three years to contain the virus.

The proposed program needed the endorsement of Asean to give it credibility among donor countries and multilateral agencies, Subhash Morzaria, chief technical adviser of the FAO in Asia and the Pacific, said.

The money will be used to help affected countries and fund research, training of personnel and campaigns against bird flu.

The FAO said earlier this week that its appeal in May for more funds to halt the cycle of bird flu infections in animals had received a lukewarm response from donors.

Health experts have warned that bird flu could set off a pandemic if it gains the ability to be transmitted easily between humans.

Millions of birds have been destroyed, causing estimated losses of $10 billion to $15 billion to the poultry industry, said Morzaria.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The two-day meeting in the Philippines ended with the endorsement of the regional framework for control and eradication of bird flu and directed a newly created task force "to urgently formulate detailed action plan for implementation and proceed to identify potential sources of funding," the statement said.

The three-year plan was drafted by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health in May, and will be presented to international donors in December for implementation early next year.

"It's important that we have the political commitment of the region so we can effectively invite the donors to back the program," said Subhash Mozaria, FAO chief technical adviser. *Reuters and AP*

Typhoon spotted off Batanes

A STRONG TYPHOON PACKING 165 kph winds near the center was spotted yesterday morning some 1,010 kms northeast of Basco, Batanes.

Pagasa said typhoon "Maring" has entered the Philippine area of responsibility and was moving at 15 kph clip in the general direction of Taiwan and the southern islands of Japan.

The weather bureau does not expect Maring, with gustiness of up to 200 kph, to make landfall over the archipelago. It is expected to be 710 kilometers east northeast of Basco, Batanes this morning.

Pagasa said Maring was still too far to affect any part of the Philippines.

However, it advised the public to be on alert and watch for succeeding weather bulletins. *Norman Bordadora*

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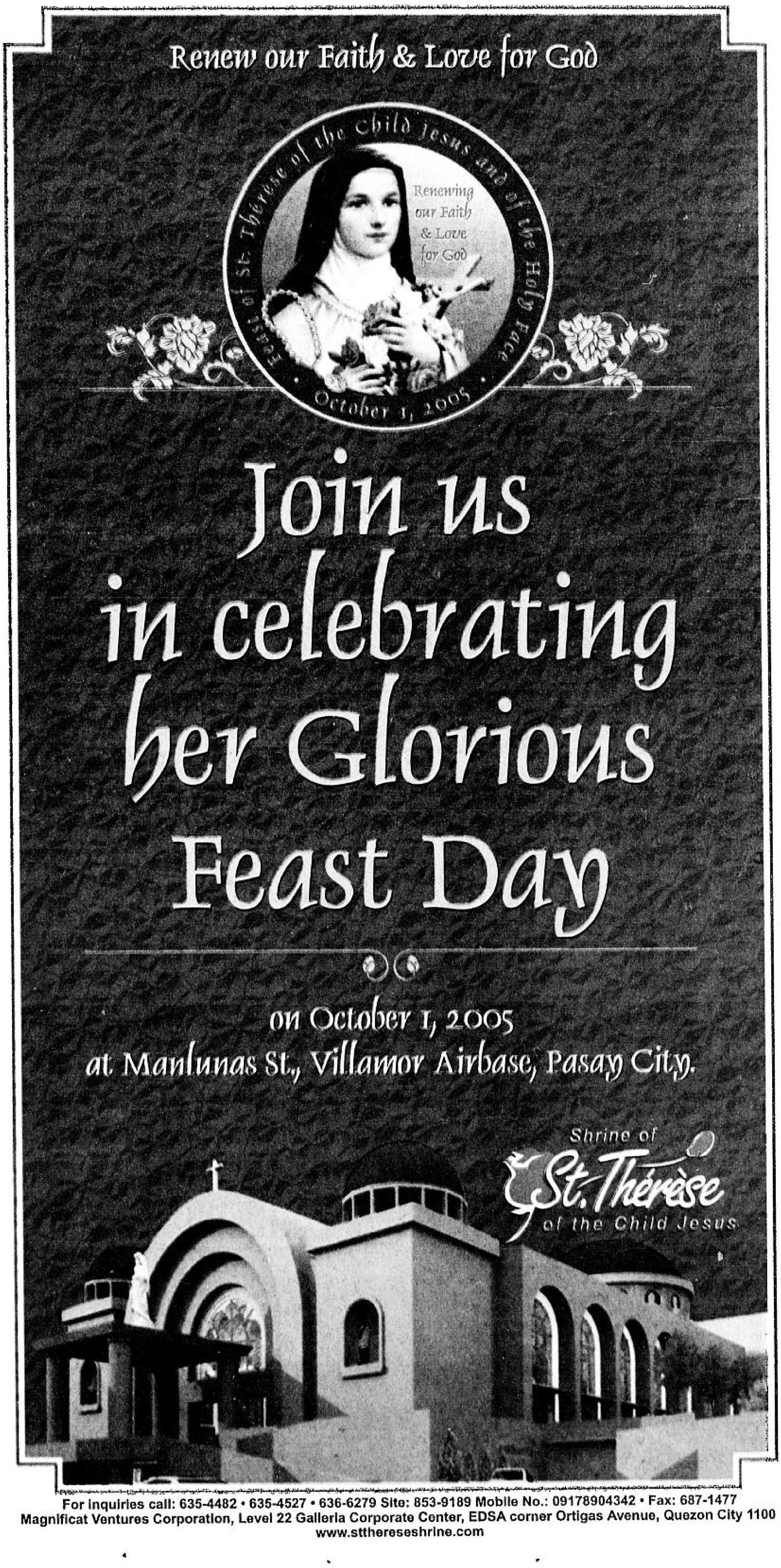

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Northrail probe perils RP-China ties, say 2 solons

By Philip C. Tubeza

RANKING HOUSE MEMBERS yesterday sought an end to the Senate investigation into the controversial Northrail contract, saying that any delay in the project could jeopardize the country's diplomatic ties with China.

Lakas-CMD Representatives Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), chair of the House committee on transportation and Edwin Uy (Isabela), vice chair of the committee on Northwest Luzon Growth Quadrangle, also said the inquiry had been used by opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo to smear her administration.

"Destroying the country's relations with China at this initial stage may prevent the country from strengthening its ties with the Chinese government and will have drastic repercussions in the future," Puentevella said.

He asked why the Senate decided to investigate the project only now "when this has been pending since the time of former President Ramos."

"*Inaamag na ang project na ito*(This project has mildew)," Puentevella said. "The government had tried implementing this since the Ramos administration and it is only now during the Arroyo administration that it is nearing its realization."

Uy warned that the country may soon lose "another good project because of some biased opinion prompted by partisan politics."

Uy and Puentevella noted that Senate President Franklin Drilon – who had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation – himself asked the University of the Philippines Law Center to study the $503 million deal, which would rehabilitate the railway system from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan.

UP Law Center members later said that the contract could be void because it skirted "competitive public bidding," among other violations.

But Uy said the project offered the country "enormous opportunities from jobs, new business, the decongestion of Metro Manila and economic development."

He said the deal with the Chinese government was the "best" the country could get.

24 Filipinos sue US Embassy

By Jerome Aning

TWENTY-FOUR FILIPINOS have sued the US Embassy and the State Department for allegedly breaking US laws by permanently rejecting their visa applications simply because they had admitted using prohibited drugs when they were young, the Filipinos' American lawyers said yesterday.

In a statement released by their Manila office, the law firm Reeves and Associates, which specializes in immigration and nationality law, said the lawsuit aims to "force the embassy to recognize statutes and regulations" that eliminate long past experimentation with drugs as a reason to bar US entry to would-be immigrants.

It said the complainants or plaintiffs are spouses or children of Filipinos who are already US citizens or legal permanent residents living in California, Nevada, New Jersey, New York and Oregon.

Named defendants in the case, filed last Aug. 29 at the US District Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, were State Secretary Condoleeza Rice, former Manila Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomelli and Immigrant Visa Chief Charles Cockburn.

Judge Percy Anderson has given the defendants 60 days to submit their answer to the charges, the statement said.

In their 48-page lawsuit, a copy of which was also sent to the INQUIRER, the complainants cited various "improper actions" by physicians during medical examinations that applicants for immigrant visas are required to undergo.

"Physicians are reportedly using deceit and misrepresentation, by misleading individuals as to the consequences of answering repeated questions regarding drug use," lawyer Robert DuPont said in the statement, adding that "consular officials have ignored specific provisions in the law which effectively excuse experimentation with drugs or drug use that is remote in time."

"Congress never intended youthful experimentation to be a reason to exclude qualified visa holders," he added, noting a US study showing that more than half of American high school students have experimented with drugs.

"Even US Presidents have admitted to experimentation with drugs," he said.

Sino gets death for killing 2 RP tourists

BEIJING – A 25-YEAR-OLD MAN was sentenced to death for the April murder of two Filipino tourists on Tiananmen Square in Beijing and the wounding of a third person, state press said Friday.

The Beijing intermediate court handed down the sentence to Wang Gongzuo on Thursday, the Beijing News said. Wang declined to appeal the verdict.

He was convicted of killing Emmanuel Madrigal, 49, and his daughter Regina Mia Madrigal on April 19.

Madrigal's wife was also seriously wounded in the attack, but survived, the paper said.

The family were a part of a Filipino tour group visiting the famous site.

The attack occurred near the mausoleum of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong situated in the middle of the square.

The court determined that Wang, a native from China's eastern Jiangsu province, was unsatisfied with life and his motive in the killings was to vent his rage, the paper said. *AFP*

Gov't lawyer told to explain appearance at Senate hearing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

NOW HIS JOB DEPENDS ON HIS explanation.

Assistant government corporate counsel Efren Gonzales, who testified at a Senate hearing on the Northrail project, would have to explain in writing why he defied instructions not to attend the hearing.

His boss, government corporate counsel Agnes Devanadera, yesterday asked Gonzales to account for his actions defying her instructions not to attend the Senate hearing.

"He will be required to explain why despite my clear instructions he still went to the hearing," Devanadera said in a press conference at her house in Merville Subdivision, Parañaque City.

She said the gravity of Gonzales's sanctions depended on his explanation. It could go from suspension to dismissal from service, she said. "We will have to evaluate his explanation," she added.

On the eve of the Senate hearing, it was clear to her that Gonzales was not going to show up, she said.

"I called him up, instead of texting him. I told him [on Wednesday night] not to attend as I would go to Malacañang early morning the next day to ask for [permission]," she recounted.

Gonzales had insisted he was not covered by the EO 464. But Devanadera stressed she would be held liable for his actions since she was head of the OGCC. Gonzales agreed, she said.

On Thursday, she was surprised to learn that despite their agreement, Gonzales still attended the hearing.

Gonzales explained that he went to the Senate just to get a copy of the UP Law Center report saying the P503 million Northrail contract with China was "flawed and illegal."

But Devanadera said if Gonzales just wanted to get a copy of the report, he should have gone to UP which is just a few meters away from the OGCC offices.

The OGCC offices are located at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on Katipunan Road in Quezon City.

She also made it clear that Gonzales' office was not padlocked. The move was a mere action "to secure" important documents, she said.

Ex-hostage Angelo sues firm, execs over firing

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Angelo de la Cruz, the former truck driver held hostage by Iraqi militants last year, has filed charges against his former employers and supervisors for alleged illegal dismissal.

In his complaint filed before the Department of Labor and Employment's National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) here on Friday, De la Cruz demanded back wages and moral damages from the respondents.

He was accompanied by lawyer Keith Nieto, who provided free legal assistance upon the request of former Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, who was one of those who assisted the family of De la Cruz when he was held captive for 17 days in Iraq in July 2004.

Named respondents in the complaint were the Philippine Coastal Storage and Pipeline Corp., its sister company Philippine Coastal Holding Corp., and their officials Octavio Espiritu, Bienvenido Tan III and Nilo Sesante.

De la Cruz did not appeal for his reinstatement in the firm which hired him as a "rock loading" operator in September last year.

He was terminated in August this year for smoking inside the company's premises, quarreling with his co-workers and disrespect for his supervisors.

The companies or its officials declined to comment on the case.

De la Cruz now works as a jeepney driver to support five of his seven children.

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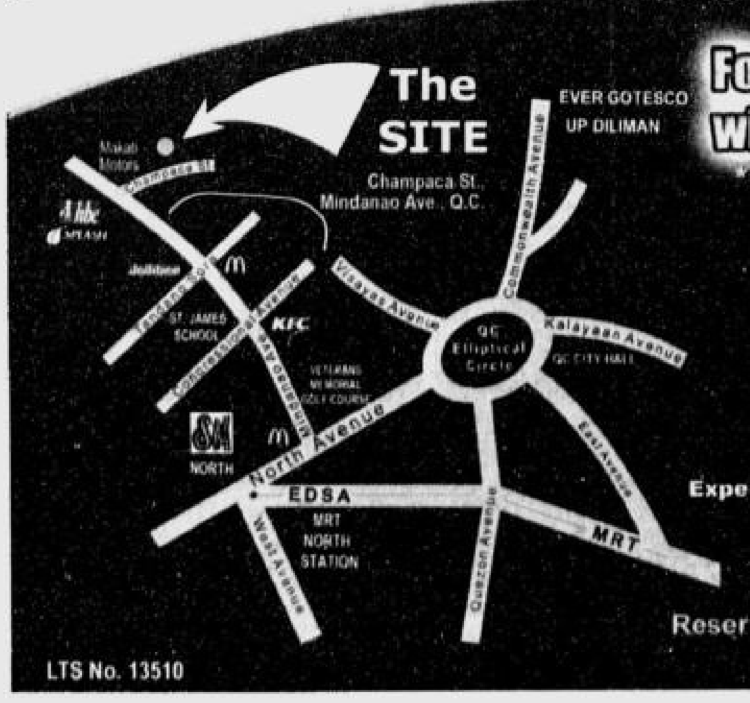

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BEROCCA EFFER TAB OR 20	257.50	244.50

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE/tab	PAY ONLY/tab
ONE-A-DAY MEN'S FORMULA	12.75	11.90
ONE-A-DAY WOMEN'S FORMULA	12.75	11.90

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
KIDDI PHARMATON SYR 60ML	91.25	86.50
KIDDI PHARMATON SYR 120ML	155.00	147.25

Adverse Reaction: Constipation.

CALCI-AID CAP 500MG 20
CALCI-AID CAP 500MG

REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
136.00	130.00
6.80/cap	6.50/cap

Adverse Reaction

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
LOVISCOL INF DRPS 50MG 15ML	84.75	80.50
LOVISCOL AD SUSP 250MG 60ML	124.75	118.50
LOVISCOL AD SUSP 250MG 120ML	190.75	181.25
LOVISCOL CAP 500MG	12.35/cap	11.75/cap
LOVISCOL PED SYR 100MG 60ML	89.00	84.50
LOVISCOL PED SYR 100MG 120ML	139.00	132.00

Adverse Reaction: Local Irritation.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
LACTACYD LIQ 150ML	121.75	109.50
LACTACYD LIQ 250ML	165.75	149.00

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
PHARMATON CAP	19.00/cap	18.00/cap
PHARMATON CAP 12	228.00	216.00

No Adverse Reaction.

SINUTAB NS NSL SPR 0.1% 15ML

REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
110.00	104.50

Adverse Reaction:
Drowsiness, Hypersensitivity, Diarrhea.

PONSTAN SF CAP 250MG
PONSTAN SF CAP 250MG 10

REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
11.50/cap	10.90/cap
115.00	109.00

Adverse Reaction:
Local Irritation.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
TROSYD CR 1% 3.5G	79.75	75.75
TROSYD CR 1% 5G	114.50	108.75
TROSYD CR 1% 15G	213.75	203.00

No Adverse Reaction.

KAMILLOSAN M SPR SOL 15ML

REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
268.75	255.25

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE/tab	PAY ONLY/tab
MOSVIT TAB	9.65	9.15

Adverse Reaction:
Mild GI disturbances, headache, flushing, skin rashes.

	REG. PRICE/tab	PAY ONLY/tab
VAREMOID FTE TAB 200MG	13.00	12.25

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
TRANSPULMIN BALSAM 10G	154.00	146.25

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
STRESSTABS 600 W/IRON 12	103.00	96.00
STRESSTABS 600 W/IRON	8.50/tab	8.00/tab

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
CLUSIVOL CAP W/OT 15	74.25	70.50
CLUSIVOL CAP W/OT 30	148.50	141.00
CLUSIVOL CAP W/OX	4.95/cap	4.70/cap

No Adverse Reaction.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
CENTRUM TAB 12	102.00	96.00
CENTRUM TAB	8.50/tab	8.00/tab

Adverse Reaction:
Drowsiness, possible paradoxical excitation.

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
DIMETAPP SYR REFORM 60ML	89.75	85.25
DIMETAPP SYR REFORM 120ML	137.50	130.50
DIMETAPP INF DRP REFORM 15ML	88.00	83.50

Adverse Reaction:
Hypersensitivity (rare).

FUCIDIN CR 2% 20MG 5G

REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
277.50	263.50

Adverse Reaction: Drowsiness.

SINUTAB CAP EXTRA STRENGTH

REG. PRICE/cap	PAY ONLY/cap
7.40	7.00

Adverse Reaction:
Skin reactions (rare).

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
CANESTEN CR 1% 3G	82.50	78.25
CANESTEN CR 1% 5G	114.50	108.75
CANESTEN CR 1% 10G	196.00	186.00

ELLGY+CRACKED HEEL CR 50G

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PALMO SH AROMATHE A-ST 100ML	41.50	39.25
PALMO SH AROMATHE A-ST 200ML	77.00	73.00
PALMO SH AROMATHE ENER 100ML	41.50	39.25
PALMO SH AROMATHE ENER 200ML	77.00	73.00
PALMO SH AROMATHE SENS 100ML	41.50	39.25
PALMO SH AROMATHE SENS 200ML	77.00	73.00
PALMO WATCOND DMGTHNG 200ML	82.25	78.00
PALMO WATCOND SATWGT 200ML	82.25	78.00
PALMO WATCOND VNNSHNT 200ML	82.25	78.00

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT 180G	78.75	74.25
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT 400G	[illegible]	170.25
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT 425G	[illegible]	178.25
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT CHOC 425G	[illegible]	286.00
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT 720G	[illegible]	286.00
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT CHOC 180G	[illegible]	74.25
ANLENE ACT HI-CA NFAT CHOC 180G	[illegible]	74.25
ANLENE GOLD [illegible]	[illegible]	178.25
ANLENE GOLD [illegible]	[illegible]	360.00
ANLENE GOLD [illegible]	[illegible]	74.25
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ANLENE GOLD HI-CA CHOC 1KG	371.25	360.00

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COLGATE DBLE COOL STRIPE 100ML	46.00	43.50
COLGATE GREAT REG FLVR 100ML	46.00	43.50
COLGATE CMNT FLVR 100ML	46.00	43.50

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
HAPEE TP TCIOUS MSSTION 50ML	22.00	20.75
HAPEE TP TCIOUS MSSTION [illegible]	35.00	33.25
HAPEE TP TCIOUS MSSTION 150ML	47.25	44.75

	REG. PRICE	PAY ONLY
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BLOCK&WH ULTI SPW LOT 100ML	168.50	160.00
BLOCK&WH SL WLOT MLK 50ML	29.50	28.00
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PONDS PEARL CRM 4G	38.00	36.00
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PONDS SKINWHTNG FLUID 12ML	16.00	15.20
PONDS SKINWHTNG FLUID 40ML	62.25	59.00
PONDS SKINWHTNG FLUID 70ML	104.00	98.75
PONDS SKINWHTNG FWSH 10ML	12.75	12.10

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Car bomb attacks on Iraq's Shiite cities kill over 100

HILLA, IRAQ—A CAR BOMB KILLED 10 PEOPLE Friday in a busy Iraqi vegetable market, the latest in a string of attacks on Shiite targets following a declaration of all-out war on the community by al-Qaida.

AN IRAQI woman cries after hearing that one of her sons had died and two other sons were injured in a shooting in Baghdad on Sept. 29. AP

The blast in Hilla, 100 kilometers south of Baghdad, also left at least 12 people wounded. It came a day after 99 died and 124 were wounded in three car bomb attacks on the Shiite town of Balad, north of the capital.

There has been a growing number of attacks on civilians by rebels, apparently loyal to al-Qaida frontman in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who declared war on the majority Shiite population on Feb. 14.

The attack in Hilla involved "a Mercedes car which was detonated by remote-control in the town's market," police said.

The blast set several other cars on fire and blew out nearby shop fronts.

"Thursday evening's bombings, carried out at 10-minute intervals, targeted a market place and a busy shopping street that is also home to four Shiite political party headquarters.

The dead included at least 35 women and 22 children, said Lt. Col. Adel Abdallah of the Balad police.

Iraq has seen almost daily attacks in the run-up to an Oct. 15 referendum on a draft constitution, with US President George W. Bush warning of the likeliness of even more violence ahead of the poll.

"As these milestones approach, we can expect there to be increasing violence from the terrorists," Bush said earlier this week.

But he insisted that US troops were ready, and would not let "terrorists" obstruct the "march of freedom."

"Our strategy is clear in Iraq. We are hunting down high-value targets," Bush said, highlighting the killing of Abu Azzam earlier this week whom the US military and Iraqi government said was al-Qaida's number two in the country.

In Washington on Thursday, the top US commander in Iraq said the insurgency may worsen even if the constitution is approved.

General George Casey said plans to reduce US forces over the next year will depend heavily on the outcome of the political process and that insurgents were expected to pull out all stops to defeat it.

When asked by the Senate Armed Services Committee whether the situation could worsen in Iraq if the constitution were approved but with a large Sunni "no" vote, Casey said, "I think that's entirely possible."

"As we've looked at this, we've looked for the constitution to be a national compact. The perception now is that it's not," he said.

The draft constitution was approved by parliament in late August and a few amendments were added to it earlier this month.

But Sunni Arabs remain dissatisfied with a number of its provisions. US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad has been engaged in last-minute talks to see if some of their demands can still be accomodated, according to Mahmud Othman, a Kurdish member of the constitutional drafting committee.

"This is a draft. It can always be changed anytime before Oct. 15," he said. *AFP*

SUPREME Court Justice John Paul Stevens swears in at the White House John Roberts as the 17th chief justice of the United States Sept 29. AP

Conservative Roberts named US chief justice

WASHINGTON—JOHN ROBERTS, President George W. Bush's choice for chief justice of the Supreme Court, won Senate approval and was sworn in Thursday to a post in which he will shape American life for years to come.

Roberts, 50, a conservative Catholic appellate judge, was approved as the 17th chief justice by 78 votes to 22, then sworn in later in the day by the longest-serving Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens at a White House ceremony.

The youngest chief justice for 200 years, Roberts took office with many Bush supporters hoping he will emulate conservative predecessor William Rehnquist, who died of thyroid cancer earlier this month.

Attention will now shift to Bush's imminent announcement on a replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a pick which could prove more controversial, as she is viewed as a crucial swing vote on the court. *AFP*

Town pest wins lottery, is now more of a pest

By Sarah Lyall

SWAFFHAM, ENGLAND—EXCEPT POSSIBLY for Howard Carter, who discovered Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922 (and who died a long time ago), 22-year-old Michael Carroll is by far Swaffham's most famous resident.

Known across Britain by his tabloid nickname, the Lotto Lout, Carroll won 9.7 million pounds (about $15 million at the time) in the national lottery three years ago and showed up to collect his prize while wearing a police-issued electronic ankle bracelet.

Carroll, who did not respond to messages left at his house, has proved since winning that he is not the sort of person to let money turn his head: he has kept having run-ins with the authorities, the only difference being that he now drives nicer cars to court.

"Before he won the lottery, he was a nuisance," Charles Joyce, a local official, said. "He decided to carry on being a nuisance."

Among other things, he has appeared in court more than 30 times in the last three years. He has spent three months in jail on drugs charges, paid thousands of dollars in fines for vandalism and been evicted from several hotels after, for instance, ripping a chandelier from the ceiling while trying to swing from it.

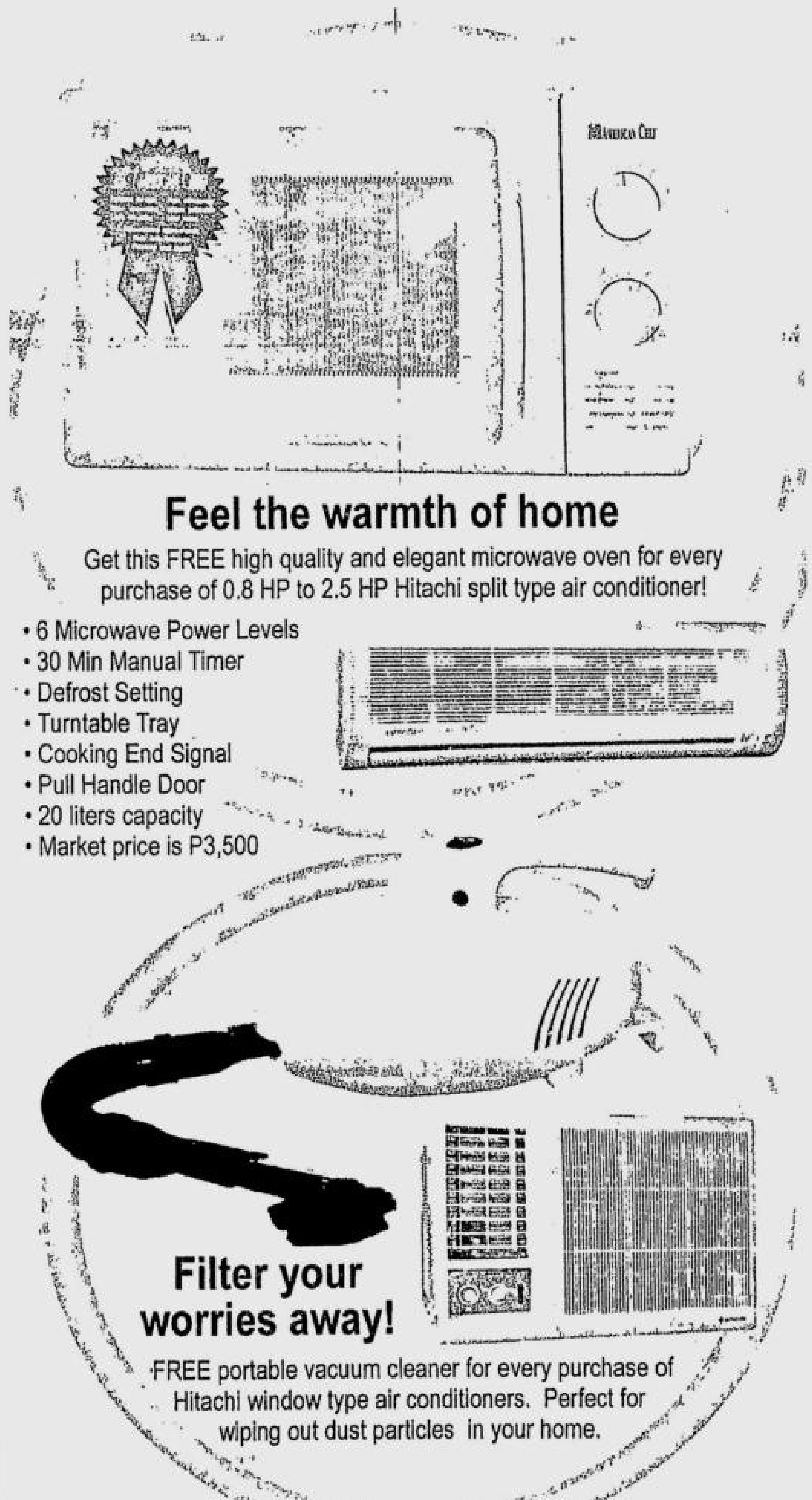
He was recently ordered to perform 240 hours of community service—later increased to 300—after shooting ball bearings through 32 car and shop windows with a catapult as he drove around in the middle of the night.

He has been issued with two anti-social behavior orders in two local jurisdictions forbidding him to threaten, harass or intimidate anyone in a 400-mile radius. He has been told by local government authorities to stop throwing raucous late-night parties and to stop holding demolition derbies on his land.

Carroll is an object of national fascination in part because of his apparently pathological criminality, and in part because he represents a kind of Briton known as a chav. Chavs, whether rich or poor, tend to favor gaudy jewelry and expensive-but-tacky clothes with big logos and to behave in a way that others find coarse or obnoxious. Male chavs wear tracksuits and baseball caps; female chavs pull their hair tightly back in buns or ponytails, a style known as a "council house facelift," from the term for public housing.

The derivation of the word, which began to be widely used about a year ago as the problem of binge drinking Britain's town's and cities became a huge national issue, is murky. But chav behavior—outrageous spending sprees, drunken brawls, inappropriate public displays of affection, screaming matches with loved ones in bars, destruction of property, late-night stumbling and/or vomiting—provides celebrity magazines here with much of their material.

Carroll, who collects chav products like jewelry, cars and tattoos, has also experienced the underside of famous chavdom, with friends denouncing him publicly. His now ex-girlfriend told The Sun that Carroll believed that "the trees in his front garden are actually people disguised as trees," and spent his nights prowling around the house looking for intruders, "I'll tell him, 'Come back to bed, you stupid twit,'" she told the newspaper. *New York Times*



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NYT reporter in outing scandal freed from jail

WASHINGTON—NEW YORK TIMES REporter Judith Miller has been released from prison after agreeing to testify in a federal probe on the outing of an undercover CIA agent, the newspaper announced.

Miller, who spent 12 weeks in a prison near Washington, was set free after her source waived her pledge of confidentiality, the Times said Thursday.

"That source was I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff," the daily said, citing "people who have been officially briefed on the case."

"It's good to be free," Miller said in a statement released by the paper.

She could testify as early as Friday, the statement said.

"I went to jail to preserve the time-honored principle that a journalist must respect a promise not to reveal the identity of a confidential source. I chose to take the consequences—85 days in prison—rather than violate that promise," she said.

"I am leaving jail today because my source has now voluntarily and personally released me from my promise of confidentiality regarding our conversations relating to the Wilson-Plame matter.

"This enables me to appear before the grand jury tomorrow. I'll say nothing more until after my testimony."

Miller was sent to prison July 6 after a showdown between the US government and the press over a case involving the White House, press freedom and the rationale for the Iraq war.

She had refused to name her sources to a federal prosecutor examining which official leaked the name of CIA spy Valerie Plame.

Plame's husband, former US Ambassador Joseph Wilson, claimed her cover was blown in revenge for an article he penned in the Times criticizing President George W. Bush's justification for war with Iraq. But questions remain over whether Plame actually was an undercover agent.

JUDITH MILLER AFP

Another journalist, Time Magazine's Matthew Cooper, almost met the same fate but was granted a last-minute reprieve after his source cleared him to testify.

Both reporters were sentenced to 18 months in jail for contempt of court.

Miller, a veteran of years of Middle East coverage, was thought likely to stay in jail until she agreed to testify, or until the mandate of a grand jury probing the case ran out in October.

Plame's name was first published in a column by veteran reporter Robert Novak in 2003, which cited senior administration officials.

Wilson claimed his wife was outed as punishment for his contradiction of Bush's assertion in the 2003 State of the Union Address that Saddam Hussein sought yellowcake uranium from Niger to build nuclear weapons.

Federal Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's probe into the leak has featured interviews with Bush, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Bush's chief political adviser Karl Rove.

Miller had researched the case but did not actually write an article on it.

Her release came after she and her lawyers met with Fitzgerald at the jail to discuss her testimony, according to the Times.

"As we have throughout this ordeal, we continue to support Judy Miller in the decision she has made," Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. said.

"Judy has been unwavering in her commitment to protect the confidentiality of her source. We are very pleased that she has finally received a direct and uncoerced waiver, both by phone and in writing, releasing her from any claim of confidentiality and enabling her to testify." *AFP*

Bird flu pandemic could kill 150 million, UN warns

UNITED NATIONS—A GLOBAL FLU pandemic could kill as many as 150 million people if the world fails to prepare for an expected mutation of the bird flu virus enabling it to spread from human to human, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Dr. David Nabarro of the Geneva-based World Health Organization said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has asked him to head up a worldwide drive to contain the current bird flu pandemic and prepare for its possible jump to humans.

If the virus spreads among humans, the quality of the world response will determine whether it ends up killing 5 million or as many as 150 million, Nabarro told a news conference.

The last flu pandemic, which broke out in 1918 at the end of World War I, killed more than 40 million people and drove home the vulnerability of a world where borders had less and less meaning, he said.

It seems very likely the H5N1 bird flu virus will soon change into a variant able to be transmitted among humans and it would be a big mistake to ignore that danger, he warned.

"I am almost certain there will be another pandemic soon," Nabarro said.

Some governments and international organizations have already started joining forces to begin preparations.

US President George W. Bush unveiled a plan at the United Nations this month under which global resources and expertise would be pooled to fight bird flu, and Washington is hosting an Oct. 7-8 planning meeting. *Reuters*

German grand coalition impends

BERLIN—GERMANY'S TWO BIGGEST PARties edged closer to a "grand coalition" on Thursday, as conservative leader Angela Merkel said there was a strong chance the conservatives and Social Democrats would form a government.

After meeting the leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), the allies with whom she failed to win a majority in the election on Sept. 18, Merkel said her Christian Democrats (CDU) were much more likely to forge a coalition with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD).

"The possibility or likelihood of a coalition with the SPD is much higher than the other constellations," she told reporters, adding that there was a high probability of success.

This week Merkel and Schroeder have been emphasizing the areas where they agree—above all the need to continue along the reform path that economists say is crucial to bolstering Germany's sluggish economy.

In response, financial markets have pepped up. The benchmark German stock index has risen to 3-1/2 year highs after an initial post-election drop.

Economists are now seeing the positives in a grand coalition, which would have a solid majority in the lower house of parliament, enabling it to push through reform of the tax system, put German finances in order and go further than a center-right government in reforming Germany's cumbersome federal system.

FDP chief Guido Westerwelle said he had not given up hope of a coalition with the CDU and its sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU). However, he acknowledged that the chances of an SPD-CDU/CSU government were much greater.

"It seems in all probability that we're heading for a grand coalition," Westerwelle told reporters.

In the past few days, Merkel and Schroeder have dropped their pre-election reservations about a grand coalition, expressing optimism that they will agree on a power-sharing arrangement.

Merkel did not mention the issue of who would be chancellor, which is expected to be a major sticking point in any coalition talks between the CDU/CSU and SPD.

Both Merkel and Schroeder have claimed the right to be the next chancellor but declined to comment in detail on the issue after holding informal exploratory talks on Wednesday. *Reuters*

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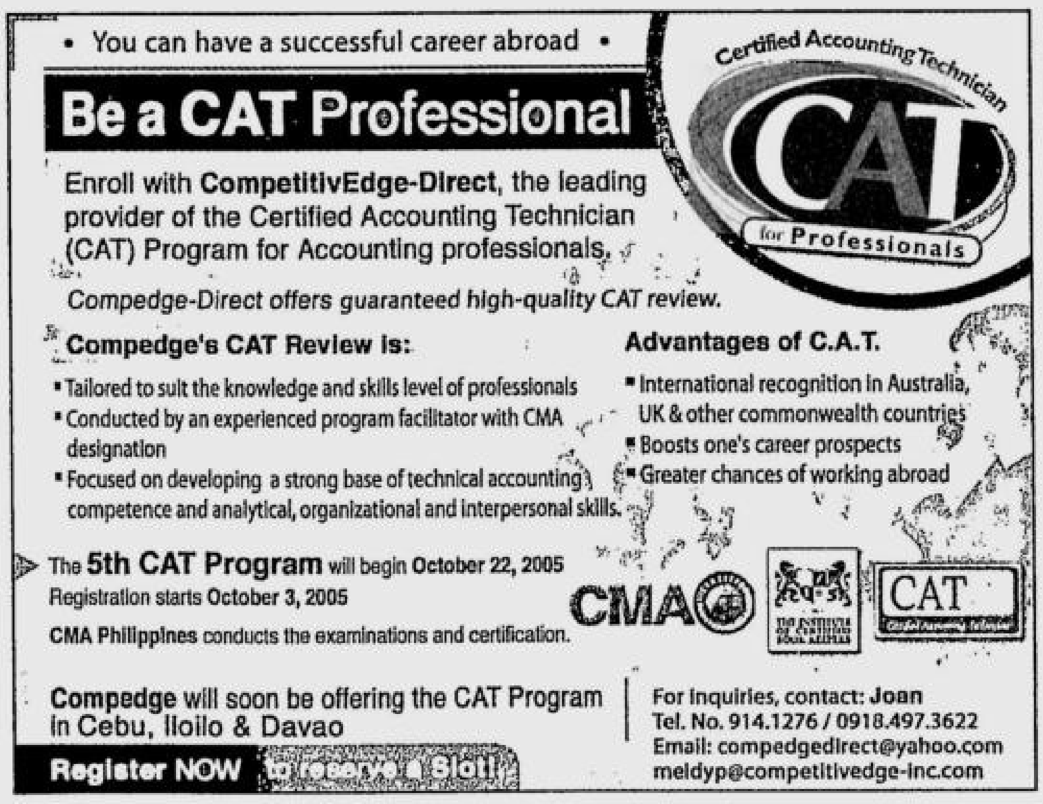

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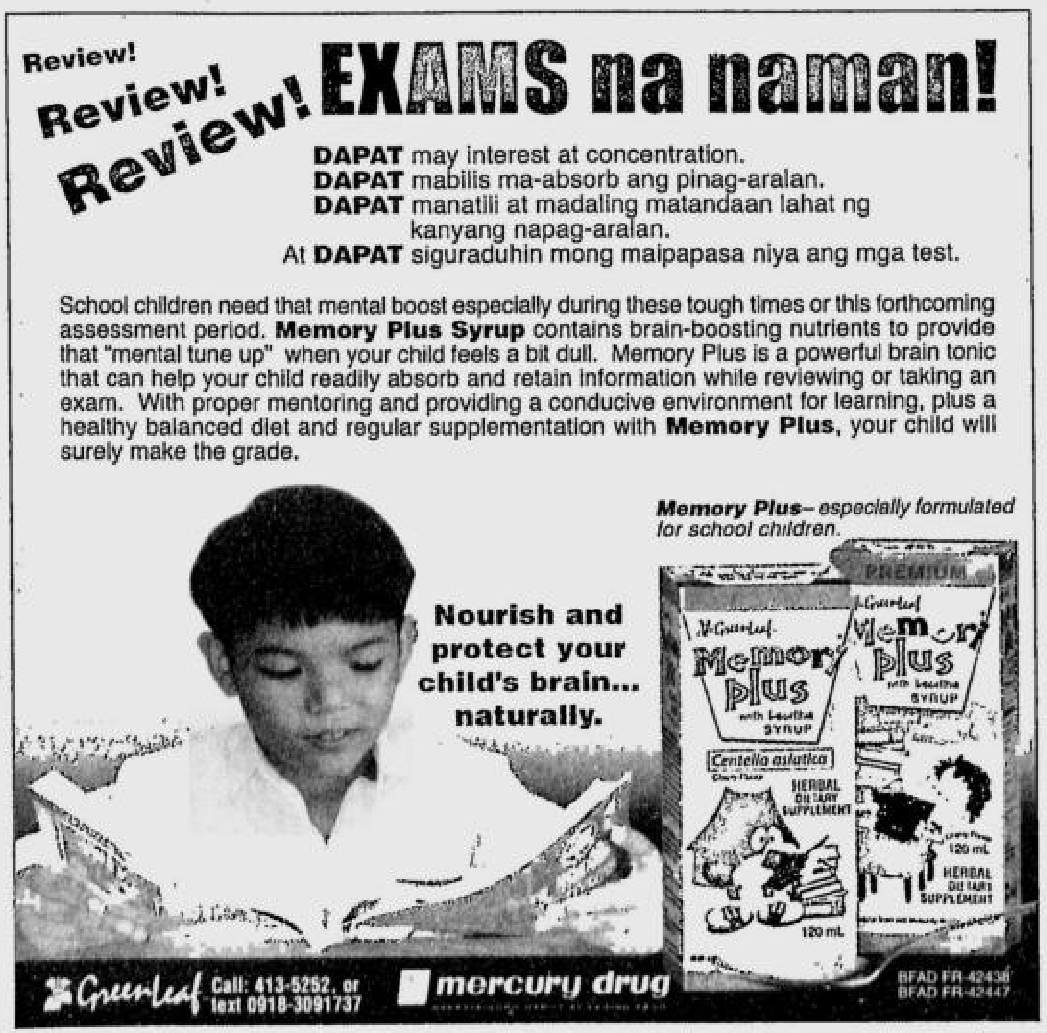

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46 retired officers rally behind defiant general

From page A1

ness in the Armed Forces.

Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan may have earned the ire of their superiors, including their Commander in Chief, but they won the backing of 46 retired officers, including several generals, who signed a manifesto of support for the pair.

"Be it known to all that we strongly support General Gudani and Colonel Balutan and all other patriotic officers who shall come out and speak out for truth and uphold the much-needed reform in the Armed Forces," the officers said in their manifesto.

Gudani and Balutan have been relieved of their posts and are facing court-martial proceedings for defying an executive order forbidding senior government officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the consent of Ms Arroyo.

In their manifesto read to reporters, the retired officers said what the two sacked officers did was "the highest form of patriotism and courage" and a "most noble and honorable act that is worth emulating."

Moral sensibility

They called on the AFP leadership to "now respond to the higher call of moral judgment and sensibility."

Copies of the manifesto will be sent to Ms Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the officers said.

The group, belonging to the United Reformist Generals and Senior Officers, issued the manifesto after a closed-door meeting in Club Filipino in San Juan.

Among those who attended were retired Gen. Joselin Nazareno, former AFP chief of staff under deposed leader Joseph Estrada, former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat and retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles, who had been linked to a previous coup attempt against dictator Ferdinand Marcos that led to the Edsa I uprising in 1986.

Law of moral imperative

Robles said he and the other officers were invited to the meeting "to discuss recent issues," referring to the sacking of Gudani and Balutan.

He said that while he supported the imposition of military procedure and following the chain of command, there was the "higher law of moral imperative."

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE. They rise again to extend support for embattled comrades. At the show of support for Gudani and Balutan, among the retired generals are (from left) Angel Sadang, Israel Appari and Tomas Diaz. JOAN BONDOC

"Gudani followed the moral law. Who can challenge that?" Robles said.

He added: "This case has united the youngest plebe with the oldest alumnus."

According to him, the cadets can dramatize their disgust by walking out from their classrooms.

Restlessness growing

"But watch out when these cadets refuse to eat. They will just sit there in a hunger strike. And I am strongly advising them from doing this because this is very destabilizing," Robles said.

Other retired generals said restlessness was again brewing within the military.

"The military now has a very low morale because [junior officers] feel there is no more honor in the Armed Forces of the Philippines," former Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police chief Gen. Ramon Montano said.

Abat said the incident "would lessen the effectivity of [Ms Arroyo] as the Commander in Chief."

He said he was sure that "rank and file officers in the military are talking [among themselves] now."

Gudani and Balutan testified at the Senate about alleged cheating during the 2004 election.

Tell all

On their part, some members of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA) challenged Ms Arroyo to push through with the court-martial proceedings against Gudani, noting this would be an opportunity for Gudani to "tell all" about what transpired during the 2004 elections.

"And I will ask Mrs. Arroyo to appear as a witness because if she said that she was the one who gave the orders [for Gudani not to appear at the Senate hearing], then she must sit down there as a witness and I am going to cross-examine her," said Col. (ret) Mariano Santiago, a lawyer.

Santiago is the vice president of the PMAAA. He has already offered his services as legal counsel to Gudani and Balutan.

"In a court-martial, you will have to tell everything. That would be a good venue for Gudani to tell all," retired Brig. Gen. Jose Commendador said.

Commendador, who underwent court-martial for a 1989 failed coup, said the military leadership was "ill-advised" when it announced that Gudani and Balutan would be court-martialled.

Dangerous flash points

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said that instead of ganging up on Gudani, the AFP should investigate his allegations that military officials helped the administration commit fraud in the 2004 elections.

Golez warned that Gudani's revelations in the Senate and the Palace attempt to prevent him and other government officials from testifying in congressional inquiries were "dangerous flash points" that could destabilize the country if not handled well. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Gudani flag still up at PMA; no cadets walkout

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS of the Philippine Military Academy said yesterday they had fully accounted for all their 1,060 cadets, squelching reports of a cadets walkout.

The PMA issued the disclaimer following text messages about a supposed protest by cadets sympathetic to Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who was relieved as PMA assistant superintendent for defying a presidential order and testifying at the Senate about alleged election fraud.

Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, commandant of cadets, said no cadet had been reported absent without official leave (Awol) since Gudani testified.

He also said Gudani's flag had not been lowered from its pole at his office here.

Military tradition requires a general's personal flag to be hoisted down every time he is absent from his quarters or office.

Politics-proof

PMA superintendent Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing said the Armed Forces was prepared to make changes in the academy to ensure "better PMA graduates" based on new policies, studies and a proposed cadet leadership development plan.

Balaoing said he was presenting to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga a new honor code binding cadets and alumni to a "politics-proof" code of conduct.

By tradition, all PMA cadets and graduates are compelled by training to stick to a code of honor whose most familiar tenet is, "Do not lie, steal or cheat, or tolerate those who do."

Most PMA graduates have applied the code "with rigidity," Balaoing said.

He said the new code was commissioned by the AFP in February to address the frequency of scandals implicating PMA graduates.

Balaoing said cadets had been trained to understand that the honor code gave the Corps of Cadets power to dismiss or ostracize violators.

The PMA is now asking Senga to institute changes by asserting that the honor code "cannot be used to ferret out violations of regulations."

This is a provision that the cadets have asked PMA scholars, the PMA Alumni Association and other stakeholders to include in the new honor system, Balaoing said.

"Cadets found guilty of a violation but who are not expelled from the academy [undergo a period of penance] to win back goodwill inside the academy," Balaoing said.

"We believe that the honor code is an instrument to strengthen character, to develop character, and not to [condemn a cadet] outright," he said.

The new code gives the PMA superintendent, instead of the cadet corps, the power to penalize violators.

At present, violations are tried by a nine-member honor committee and ruled upon by a six-member board, which are all composed of cadets. The new code now prohibits "ostracism and other inhumane treatment of cadets."

Ombudsman quits, cites health reasons

From page A1

tally exhausted."

"I am suffering from hypertension, ulcers and insomnia which [have] greatly affected my work. I have to heal my body and have more time with my family," he said.

The 52-year-old Marcelo, a noted trial lawyer who shot to prominence as a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of detained ex-President Estrada in 2000, said what he wanted was a "simple life from now on." He said he has no ambitions of becoming either a Supreme Court justice or an elective official.

Marcelo said his health began to deteriorate rapidly in April, which he tried to remedy by slowing down and taking some rest. However, this only aggravated his condition as he became agitated and his workload began to pile up.

"Taking time out to rest did not help because I felt guilty about doing so when there was so much work to be done," he said in Filipino.

A big loss

The loss of Marcelo cast doubt on the Arroyo administration's ability to achieve its goal of reducing corruption in public service by 2007.

He is the second high-profile official to be lost in the anti-corruption campaign after Haydee Yorac, the former head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, resigned in April. Yorac died of kidney failure last month while undergoing treatment for cancer in the United States.

"Its a big blow to the government. Marcelo is a big loss because he was very credible," said political analyst Earl Parreño.

Parreño said Marcelo's departure would not help erase public perceptions about widespread corruption in the Arroyo administration.

The President, who survived an attempt to impeach her last month, remains under a cloud of suspicion because of allegations over election cheating and graft within her family.

Marcelo said that he decided to make his resignation effective on Nov. 30 to give him time to finish some administrative work and make way for an orderly transition.

He thanked Ms Arroyo for her support, admitting that he found it difficult to work in government because of the perennial lack of resources.

Reforms needed

He said reforms were needed at the Office of the Ombudsman. He suggested to the body framing the constitutional amendments that a five-person commission be created to run the office.

He said the Ombudsman commissioners would work not as a collegial body but as individuals deciding cases in a setup similar to that of the Supreme Court.

This would ensure that the Ombudsman would be insulated from undue influence, Marcelo said.

Asked if Ms Arroyo or any other government official tried to influence his office, Marcelo said that he consistently inhibited himself whenever cases concerning Ms Arroyo were filed in his office even as he stressed that Ombudsman prosecutors and investigators were professionals.

The then newly installed President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Marcelo as solicitor general in 2001.

As solicitor general, he worked long hours, starting his day at 8 a.m. and ending at 1 a.m. He even worked during weekends and holidays. Marcelo said he declined invitations to social functions.

Work for the soul

Marcelo's appointment as Ombudsman in October 2002 became controversial because of his affiliation with the Carpio Villaraza & Cruz law office, the private lawyers of the First Couple, where he was a senior partner.

In earlier interviews, Marcelo said the appointment stood in the way of his plan to devote 20 percent of his time each year to pro bono work starting at age 50.

He has also expressed a desire to teach law, work with a nongovernment organization or go full time pro bono at age 55.

"I'm already financially independent. I've had it all. There's work for the soul that must be attended to," he said.

Model

Marcelo's resignation caught many employees at the Ombudsman's office by surprise, said spokesperson Evelyn Baliton.

She said Marcelo provided a model of "the right work ethic," one that many tried to emulate.

"He is always early to work and is very industrious," Baliton said, adding that he would be missed.

Even his opponents were all praises for Marcelo.

Jose Flaminiano, one of Estrada's defense lawyers, said Marcelo's resignation was a big loss for the administration, with his "competence, integrity and dedication."

Can't believe it

"I can't believe it. He is ably discharging the function of the Ombudsman without fear or favor," Flaminiano said.

The Ombudsman's Office is prosecuting Estrada in his plunder and perjury case before the Sandiganbayan.

Another Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, described Marcelo as "a good guy" who became ill working for the "godmother of this criminal syndicate."

"One cannot serve the godmother and remain healthy," Saguisag said.

"He is a man of conscience hence he resigned," he said.

High-profile case

Some of the high-profile cases that Marcelo will be leaving behind include, among others, the Estrada cases, the tax credit scam case against Faustino Chingkoe, the illegal wealth case against former Armed Forces comptroller Gen. Carlos Garcia and other military officials, and the various unexplained wealth cases against former first lady Imelda Marcos.

The Ombudsman is also investigating a $2-million bribery complaint against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez by former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Perez resigned amid accusations that he extorted money from Jimenez. The $2 million is alleged to have come from a $14-million bribe for the approval of the contract for a hydroelectric plant won by Argentina's Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonima (Impsa). The project was approved by the Estrada administration, endorsed by Perez, and allegedly brokered by Jimenez. Perez has denied the allegation. *With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research and Reuters*

Pagcor funding bright kids …

From page A1

the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the program, which aims to raise healthy and intelligent Filipino children, is funded by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Marilyn Manuel, CWC deputy executive director, said some council members had questioned the use of proceeds from Pagcor in the implementation of the early children care and development program.

"[But] I look at the Pagcor funding as a financing strategy. Otherwise, if the law (Early Childhood Care and Development Act) is there but there is no means to implement it, the law is rendered useless," Manuel said in a press briefing at the launch of the program in Pampanga on Wednesday.

The law (Republic Act No. 8980), which was enacted during the Estrada administration in October 2000, appropriated P400 million yearly out of the Pagcor income.

Most comprehensive

The program funding runs for five years, starting 2002 when the implementing rules and regulations were approved.

The government describes the program as its most comprehensive anti-poverty measure for children 6 years old and below.

The program combines the efforts of the education, health, social welfare and interior departments in the delivery of basic services to the poor.

According to the council, almost 40 percent of 1,000 infants die before the age of 5. Only 21 percent of 6.5 million children aged 3 to 5 attend day care centers. Three out of 10 children are underweight.

Manuel herself saw good use for Pagcor money, saying children were benefiting from it.

Prompt release

The funds have been released without delay, coursed through the Department of Budget and Management that, in turn, channels it to the council through a trust fund.

President Macapagal-Arroyo added P5 million from her Presidential Social Fund to finance supplemental feeding in 24 towns in Bicol, Leyte and Samar where children suffer from poor nutrition, Manuel said.

On its third year, the program is implemented in 214 towns and 15 cities in 46 of 79 provinces in the country, according to Manuel.

Goma first show biz 'big fish' …

From page A1

dent that he was granted an extension by the BIR commissioner for the filing of his income tax returns on April 27 for his returns for taxable years 2000, 2001 and 2003, his filing thereof did not operate to cure the violation already committed by him," the DOF complaint said.

Gomez said he had filed his income tax for 2002, but he failed to prove it.

"Respondent's alleged belated filing and payment of taxes due did not cure his criminal liability because any subsequent satisfaction of tax liability by payment or prescription will not operate to extinguish criminal liability considering that the duty to pay taxes is imposed by statute," the DOJ said.

In a complaint filed by the BIR against Gomez under the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the government last April 14, the actor was accused of not declaring taxes amounting to P100 million for the years 2000 to 2003.

Forbes Park property

In filing a tax evasion case against Gomez, the BIR said its records showed the only transaction the actor made with their office was the payment of a documentary stamp tax for P786,975 on Nov. 6, 2003 for the acquisition of a Forbes Park property for P52 million.

Although Gomez submitted an income tax return for 2002 amounting to P1.5 million, he did not declare his source of income for the acquisition of his P52-million mansion, the BIR said.

It said the purchase of the expensive property itself was strong proof of the high earnings of Gomez.

"They claim that the respondent's lavish lifestyle evidenced by his purchase of a Forbes Park property in the astronomical amount of P52,465,000 is more than indicative of substantial undeclared income, the tax liability of which would definitely exceed the credible withholding taxes withheld at source," the DOJ said, quoting BIR officials who investigated and filed the case against Gomez before the DOJ.

It was also found that Gomez made "improvements" on the 1,416 square meter residential lot for P5.72 million.

Sources of income

BIR investigators also learned that from 2000 to 2003, Gomez made five movies and appeared in four fashion shows for Bench. He also hosted shows "S-Files" and "S.O.P." and appeared in TV shows "Lagot Ka Isusumbong Kita," "Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin" and "Your Honor"—all for GMA 7. He also hosted "A.S.A.P" and appeared in "Richard Loves Lucy" for ABS-CBN.

He is a product endorser for Squibb Vitamin E and Bench Apparel.

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ITIGIL ANG LUC
BUNGKALIN ANG LUPANG KINAMKAM CATLU ULWU
BUNGKALIN LUPANG CATLU
LUPA SAHOD
KATARUNGAN PARA SA MGA BIKTIMA
LUISITA ULWU

FARMERS of the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac rally in front of former President Corazon Aquino's house on 25 Times St. Quezon City to demand the implementation of land distribution. JOAN BONDOC

Cory on Luisita: Familiar refrain from Marcos years

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT AQUINO YESTERDAY said the fate of her family's 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita would not affect her wish to see President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office.

Speaking at the Miriam College where she heard Mass, Aquino finally broke her silence on Hacienda Luisita and other major issues besetting the Arroyo administration.

Aquino said she was not surprised that the Cojuangco family-owned 5,000-hectare agricultural estate was being dragged yet again into the country's politics.

The former President and Ms Arroyo parted ways two months ago after Aquino joined calls for Ms Arroyo to resign because of allegations that she cheated to win in 2004.

"To underscore the point that Cory Aquino should start behaving in a politically correct manner, the Hacienda Luisita was resurrected, a familiar refrain from the years of the Marcos dictatorship," Aquino told a gathering of students and faculty members.

Aquino said friends had repeatedly asked her to respond to allegations that she only wanted to ask for the President's resignation because of the hacienda.

AQUINO: 'Shouldn't I just have kept quiet?'

"But if Luisita were the reason, then shouldn't I just have made *sipsip* or at the very least kept quiet?" she asked.

"I imagine the motives of the Hyatt 10 have also been questioned. And the same goes for Senate President (Franklin) Drilon and some of the Liberal Party members who also asked for the resignation of the President," she said.

The 72-year-old widow of the martyred opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. said she was not anti-Arroyo but was "pro-truth."

She said the dismissal of the impeachment complaints against the President by the House of Representatives "mortally injured Mrs. Arroyo's credibility and trapped her in a web of transactional politics."

Consequently, she said the President has also lost the opportunity to disprove the evidence and to vindicate herself.

"This has mortally injured her credibility and trapped her in a web of 'transactional politics' making it virtually impossible for her to unite and govern the country effectively," she said.

Aquino took a swipe at those who had been saying that she had lost her "magic" because of her supposed inability to muster significant crowds to bring about a people power uprising similar to Edsa 1 and Edsa 2.

"My, have they got their signals crossed!" Aquino said.

"I am not a magician nor a Pied Piper, and believe me, at 72 years of age, I have no intention of embarking on a new career," she said.

Aquino also said her detractors either refused to understand or wanted to confuse the issue against the government so that the people would not get her message.

Saying she was speaking as "Citizen Cory," Aquino said people are free to agree or disagree with her.

She said the government should stop blocking the truth from coming out, especially in controversial cases like the contract between National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and the Venable US lobby firm, the idea of imposing martial law, the wiretapping of the President and a Marine general's testimony before the Senate on the alleged electoral fraud and bribery that occurred in Lanao del Sur during the 2004 presidential elections.

Aquino said the problem was not political or economic but moral.

"Hurdling such a crisis does not call for strength in numbers on the streets. It calls for a resurgent moral force, a re-affirmation of our fundamental convictions," she said.

She then called on the students to help preserve democracy in the country.

"And so my fellow Filipinos, I urge you to stand up not for Cory Aquino or for anybody else, but for yourselves and for your families, for our democracy and for the country that we love," Aquino said.

Cory hacienda deal scrapped

From page A1

tioned the scheme a year after it was approved in two referendums in 1989.

But he said the Hacienda Luisita management would not be "an obstacle" to the DAR decision if that was what the farm workers that rejected the agreement really wanted.

"It's not that we're hanging [on] tightly to the land. Let's just make sure in the way we made sure in 1989 that the will of the farm worker beneficiaries prevails, that this is really what they want," Mendoza said in a phone interview.

He said the SDO should not be blamed entirely if the farmers' lives have not improved.

"The sugar industry has been suffering over the past 15 years," he said.

Rene Galang, president of the Ambala and the United Luisita Workers Union, called the DAR decision an "initial victory" for farmers who have been fighting for their share of the Luisita land for years.

"It validates what we have been saying all along, that aside from bringing unprecedented poverty and oppression on the hacienda people, the SDO enabled the Cojuangco-Aquino family to evade land distribution," Galang said in a statement.

"It also confirms our assertion that the illegal and unjust control of the land through the SDO is the root cause of the strike and the infamous Hacienda Luisita massacre," he said.

Following a 10-month investigation and dialogues with farmers, the Task Force Luisita ruled that the SDO was against public policy. It also found that the farmers had not been receiving the dividends and shares in income-augmenting activities as stipulated in the SDO agreement.

"We really saw violations of the SDO ... We anticipate that the HLI will question our jurisdiction. That is their right. But this is my decision, and I will stand by it," Pangandaman declared, to applause from DAR employees.

Endorsed to PARC

The DAR chief endorsed the revocation of the SDO to the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) executive committee. He also turned over a six-inch thick pile of documents in support of the decision.

"These are the signatures of more than 8,000 farm workers of the hacienda, so I hope the PARC execom will see these signatures saying they want the land distributed to them," Pangandaman said.

The PARC would have the final say on the Luisita case because it was the PARC that approved the SDO agreement in 1989, Pangandaman said.

"At that time, unfortunately or fortunately, it was President Cory Aquino who was chair of the PARC, so everything fell into place. In fairness to the former President, Cory inhibited herself during the deliberations," he said.

Pangandaman expressed confidence that the PARC en banc would adopt the DAR's decision abrogating the SDO and that the political rift between Aquino and President Macapagal-Arroyo would not affect the PARC's decision.

He said he has not been informed yet if the President would actually preside over the PARC en banc or inhibit herself as DAR sources have claimed.

"It's the discretion of the President. Personally I think the President will inhibit herself," he said.

Spare DAR from politics

Pangandaman reiterated his appeal that the DAR be spared from politics, saying it was former Secretary Rene Villa who ordered the investigation, acting on the request of opposition lawmakers.

The House committees on agrarian reform and human rights conducted an inquiry into the allegations against the HLI management after seven people were killed during a violent dispersal of striking hacienda workers in late 2004.

PARC Director Atanacia M. Guevarra said the executive council would likely come out with a decision in two weeks.

The council will submit its report to the PARC en banc composed of 24 representatives of farmers, landowners and CARP-implementing agencies, and chaired by the President, for final decision.

The HLI's Mendoza said it was not enough for the DAR to use the focus group discussion with 453 farmers as the basis for saying the farm worker beneficiaries (FWBs) were for land distribution.

Referendum vs focus groups

Mendoza floated the idea of holding another referendum, or any venue similar to "what (they) went through before" to have the SDO approved by more than 5,000 farmers.

"If we do (land distribution) and later find out that majority were not in favor of land distribution, what do we do next? Do we go back to stock distribution? I don't know if they (DAR) explained to the farmers the ramifications of land distribution," he said.

He said the HLI spends P50 million a year for hospitalization benefits for the farmers, which they would lose if the land becomes theirs, along with educational loans.

"Whatever decision the FWBs take, we want to make sure it was done intelligently, with all considerations in mind ... In 1989, if they thought land distribution was what they wanted, we would've given the land there and then," Mendoza said.

Pangandaman said the DAR did not need to interview the 8,000 farmers who signed the petition because it was nearly impossible to gather all of them.

Bottom line

"The bottom line is: Did their lives improve? It did not, and that is the basis of our decision," he said.

He said no legal instrument can delay or halt the implementation of the PARC's decision, citing Section 5 of RA 6657, or the CARP law.

The two law firms handling the Luisita case for the farmers also urged the DAR to immediately implement its "landmark decision."

The Public Interest Law Center and the Sentro para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo Foundation Inc. said the DAR should stop the further dissipation of Hacienda Luisita and asked the HLI to present a full accounting of its transactions involving the hacienda in the last 16 years. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Jo Martinez Climente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

HACIENDA LUISITA TIMELINE

1957—JOSE COJUANGCO SR. buys majority shares of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, including the 6,453-hectare Hacienda Luisita from the Spanish company Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas (Tabacalera). The CAT and hacienda are transferred to Cojuangco's Tarlac Development Corp., an agricultural corporation.

Aug. 27, 1957—Central Bank Monetary Board issues Resolution No. 1240 approving Cojuangco's loan to pay Manufacturers Trust in New York, which extended a loan to purchase Hacienda Luisita. The CB resolution says, "There shall be a simultaneous purchase of Hacienda Luisita with the purchase of the shares, with a view to distributing this hacienda to small farmers in line with administration's social justice program."

Resolution No. 3202

Nov. 27, 1957—The Government Services Insurance System approves a loan of P5.9 million for the Cojuangcos through Resolution No. 3202. The GSIS loan was approved after Cojuangco told the GSIS in a letter that the Cojuangcos' acquisition of Luisita would "pave the way for the sale to bona fide planters on a long-term basis, portions of the hacienda."

1976—Period when the Cojuangcos should have made good on the condition of the loan agreements they signed with CB and GSIS to distribute and sell the land to farm workers through affordable terms.

1977—Marcos government reviews Cojuangcos' compliance with the land distribution condition

'Unwarranted'

June 22, 1978—Demetria S. Cojuangco writes then Ministry of Agrarian Reform Deputy Minister Ernesto Valdez, saying it was "extremely unwarranted to make us account for the fulfillment of a condition that cannot be enforced ... there are no tenants in Hacienda Luisita ... the Central Bank resolution does not indicate the small farmers ... the hacienda is outside the scope of any land reform program of the government ... there is no agrarian unrest in Hacienda Luisita."

May 7, 1980—Marcos government files Civil Case No. 13164 against Jose Cojuangco Sr. and his heirs before the Manila Regional Trial Court

Dec. 2, 1985—Manila RTC orders the Cojuangcos to transfer control of Hacienda Luisita to the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, which will distribute the land to small farmers after compensating the landowners P3.988 million. The Cojuangcos elevate the case to the Court of Appeals.

February 1986—Slain Sen. Ninoy Aquino's widow and one of Cojuangco's five heirs, Cory C. Aquino, is installed as President of the Philippines through a popular revolt at Edsa.

July 22, 1987—Aquino issues Presidential Proclamation 131 and Executive Order No. 229 saying agrarian reform covers sugar lands.

March 17, 1988—The solicitor general, CB governor and the Department of Agrarian Reform filed a motion to dismiss the civil case against the Cojuangcos pending before the Court of Appeals on the ground that Hacienda Luisita would be covered by agrarian reform.

Agrarian reform

May 18, 1988—Court dismisses civil case against the Cojuangcos concerning Luisita.

June 10, 1988—Enactment of RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, which is grounded on the land-to-the-tiller principle. RA 6657 provides stock transfer scheme as an alternative to actual land acquisition and distribution.

Aug. 23, 1988—Tadeco creates Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) as a spin-off company and registers it with the Securities and Exchange Commission

May 9, 1989—Landowners, along with then DAR Secretary Philip Juico, Tarlac governor and the mayors of Tarlac City, Concepcion, and La Paz, the three municipalities covering the hacienda, hold referendum among Luisita farm workers to present the stock distribution option. Juico, Tadeco and HLI sign memorandum of agreement on the SDO.

SDO agreement

May 11, 1989—Tadeco, HLI, farmers sign SDO agreement to convert share in 4,915 hectares of agricultural land after 92.6 percent of farmers voted 'yes' to SDO during referendum.

Oct. 14, 1989—Another referendum supervised by the Agrarian Reform secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago is held at Hacienda Luisita, with 96 percent of farmers approving the SDO agreement.

Sept. 1, 1995—Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Tarlac approves rezoning plan that converts 3,290 hectares of hacienda Luisita from agricultural to commercial, industrial and residential purposes.

Reclassified land

Aug. 14, 1996—DAR approves conversion of 500 hectares of the 3,290 hectares of reclassified Luisita land on the condition that it would not affect the benefits of farmers and they would get 3 percent of gross sale proceeds

Sept. 28, 2003—Farmers boycott elections of their representatives to the HLI board, saying the four board seats were useless against seven management seats; express dismay with past farmer board members for siding with management.

Oct. 14, 2003—Supervisors of Hacienda Luisita file petition before the DAR to revoke SDO, saying the HLI was not giving them dividends, their one percent share in gross sales and 33 percent share in the proceeds from the conversion of 500 hectares of land.

Dec. 4, 2003—5,000 farmers through their group Ambala file a supplemental petition to seek revocation of the SDO and distribution of land to them, citing similar violations of the agreement and the unconstitutionality of the SDO policy.

Task Force Luisita

Nov. 16, 2004—Violent dispersal of striking workers leave seven dead, scores injured, focusing national attention to the farmers' situation in the hacienda

Nov. 25, 2004—DAR task force stock distribution, later renamed task force Luisita, convenes for the first time to discuss the petitions by Luisita supervisors and farmers

December 2004—House committee on agrarian reform holds hearings on the violent strike, touching on the alleged violations of the HLI management of the SDO provisions

March 15, 2005—DAR deploys 10 teams to 10 barangays within the hacienda to conduct focus group discussions with 453 farmers concerning their understanding of SDO, benefits, home lots, other provisions of the agreement, their recommendations on the SDO, etc.

June 2005—HLI writes DAR informing agency of the completion of the distribution of 118 million shares of stocks, way ahead of scheduled 30-year period for distribution of shares, or until 2019.

Special legal team

July 2005—Task Force Luisita submits report on findings and recommendations to DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman

August 2005—Pangandaman creates special legal team to review the "minor legal issues" in the task force's report, says decision on Luisita should be out by end of September

Sept. 23, 2005—DAR special legal team submits terminal report on the two petitions, recommending the revocation of the 16-year-old SDO agreement in Hacienda Luisita.

OFW families share the *Globe Kababayan* experience

Globe Kababayan has undoubtedly made life easier for thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families. Globe's service arm for these modern-day heroes continues to expand its host of tailor-made services in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and the Middle East in order to help make a difference in their lives.

Take for example Remedios Abrenica, a Makati-based research associate who used to go to the bank to claim the remittance her mother sends from Hong Kong. "*Naghahanap na ako noon ng ibang* money-order facility, *tapos sabi ng* mother *ko sa* Hong Kong she'll try the new *Globe Kababayan Quick Remit and Load service* (I was already looking then for a different money-order facility, when my mother, who is based in Hong Kong, said she will try the new Globe Kababayan Quick Remit and Load service)," she said. Globe Kababayan's Quick Remit and Load service enables Pinoys abroad to send G-Cash Remittance via text in increments of P1,050, P 3,050 or P 5,050, which also comes with P150 worth of load. The convenience this service offers saves Remedios from frequent trips to the bank or money order facilities, giving her more time to spend with her two daughters. And since the service comes complete with P150 worth of prepaid credits, it makes it so much easier for her to immediately call her mom to confirm her receipt of the G-Cash remittance -- and of course, to simply say thanks.

Sharing and sending cellphone load has indeed been one of the best ways that overseas Pinoys show their concern for loved ones at home. Not only has it become possible to keep the lines of communication open between family members, it makes them feel closer to home and allows OFWs to continue taking care of their family's needs. Ronald Cabanilla shares a related experience with his father in the US who often sends him load via Globe Kababayan's *International AutoloadMAX*. "*Magugulat ka na lang, bigla kang padadalhan ng* load. *May kasama pa 'yang* message, *kasi gano'n 'pag AutolodMAX* from abroad, *may kasamang* personal message *ng nagpadala. Sabi n'ya, gusto n'ya lang iparamdam sa 'kin na tulad ng dati, nandyan lang siya kung kailangankong makipag-usap sa kanya* (He usually sends me prepaid credits from abroad when you least expect it, and there's always a special message attached to it—it's part of the AutoloadMAX service when it's sent from abroad. I guess it's his way of letting me know that he's just a call away in case I need someone to talk to, just like old times)," he says.

With more Filipino workers going abroad each year, Globe Kababayan gives the growing number of global Filipino families new ways to remain tightly knit in spite of the physical separation necessitated by the strong desire to provide for their needs. Indeed, hardworking Pinoys all around the world can continue to express love and concern for their families back home with Globe Kababayan. All it takes is but an instant to send money and load -- and just one moment to text or call to say they are there for you and will never be too far away from home.

Globe Kababayan brings connec

Selfless sacrifice. Relationships transcending boundaries. Building better futures. These and other noble deeds and aspirations come to mind when one thinks of the approximately eight million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) all over the world. As Globe's pioneering service arm exclusively targeting the needs of the OFW community, Globe Kababayan salutes these modern-day heroes' valiant nation-building efforts by providing them with a lifeline to their loved ones back home as well as relevant activities that recognize their contribution to our country's development.

Bridging families across borders

OFWs around the globe enjoy Globe Kababayan's special benefits and fun events.

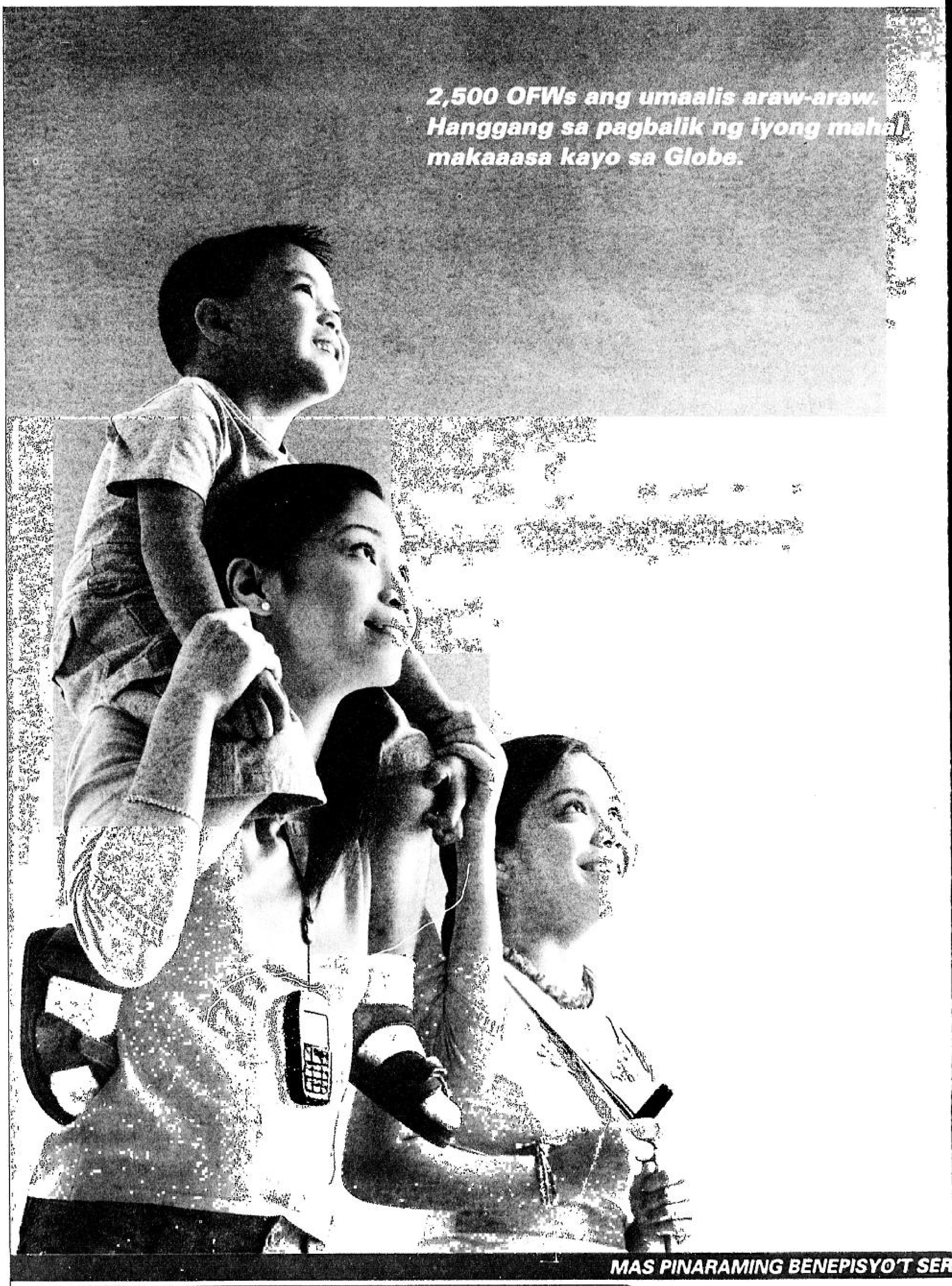
Clear and constant communication is a must for OFW families, who have come to rely on the mobile phone as a means of strengthening relationships. Cross-border reloading services such as *International AutoloadMAX*, *International Share-a-Load*, and *Globe Call and Text* cards enable family members to keep in touch with their relatives working abroad.

OFWs can also respond to their family's emergency needs through Globe Kababayan's international remittance services. The innovative *Quick Remit and Load* card enables OFWs based in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and the United Kingdom to remit G-Cash and send load at the same time to their family members who are Globe or TM subscribers.

Empowering incentives, reaffirmed commitment

Aside from offering these cross-border services, Globe Kababayan demonstrates its commitment to the OFW community by providing more meaningful ways of bringing OFWs and their families together. With the newly-launched Globe Celebrate Budget IDD rates, plus prepaid load incentives for long-distance calls received from loved ones abroad, more families can enjoy the warmth of togetherness despite the distance.

Globe Kababayan also ensures that their families back home enjoy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MA
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tivity and empowerment to OFW families

significant discounts and privileges that truly matter to them. Globe Kababayan's comprehensive benefits include: low interest rates on housing and auto loans, premium insurance benefits, and free home delivery for significant appliance purchases. Strategic partnerships with schools, drugstores, and other establishments also ensure that the whole family's needs are met at lesser cost. This gives more overseas workers the assurance that their family's well-being is taken care of even when they are miles apart.

Globe Kababayan activities provide opportunities for OFWs in various countries to bond together and to strengthen their ties with their families back home.

Finally, the first and only Kababayan cellphone menu is now available to OFW families who are on Globe Prepaid, for easy access to relevant information like job openings, loans, events, the *Pangkabuhayan Program* for OFW families, and the *Globe Kababayan Electronic Privilege Card (E-card)*, which gives Kababayan members access to special benefits and privileges.

(L-R) Deputy Administrator Carmelita Dimzon (POEA); Alan Supnet, Overseas Mobile Services Head & Russell Regaspi, Overseas Marketing Manager (Globe); Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas (DOLE); Undersecretary Danilo Cruz (DOLE) and Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz (POEA)

To share the good news about its benefits and services at the grassroots level, Globe Kababayan will tour the country this October and November to inform more OFW families about all these new, powerful offerings. Aside from offering various services from Globe and TM (the new Touch Mobile), the Globe Kababayan Karavan will provide access to international job openings, livelihood opportunities for the OFWs' families, and various perks and treats in cooperation with its partner companies – plus a live concert by the Philippines' one and only "Banda ng Bayan," Rivermaya. The Karavan will initially visit Metro Manila, Batangas , Dagupan , and Cebu. More Globe Kababayan Karavan activities are upcoming, to continue spreading the word to more OFW families nationwide.

Honoring the *Pamilyang OFW*

Aside from keeping OFWs in touch with their loved ones, Globe Kababayan also supports various programs and projects that provide assistance and recognition to OFWs. It has already sponsored various activities worldwide, such as Philippine Independence Day celebrations, training programs, sports tournaments, and festivals.

Another upcoming effort is the Department of Labor and Employment's Labor Opportunities Program (DOLOP), which aims to showcase the skills and achievements of Filipino workers in order to open up more global employment opportunities for them. In cooperation with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Globe Kababayan presents one of the main activities in this program, the First International Labor Mart. This three-day job fair and exhibit, which will be held on November 8-10, 2005, brings together international employers as well as licensed recruitment and placement agencies to discuss their manpower requirements. The exhibit will also feature Globe Kababayan's full connectivity services as well as other relevant products and services especially tailored to the needs of OFWs and their family members.

Providing proper information and training to Filipinos who are preparing to leave for overseas jobs is also an important concern for Globe Kababayan. It has partnered with government agencies to produce communication materials that will be used in the Pre-Education Orientation Seminar (PEOS) and Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS), which will make them aware of proper documentation procedures and requirements, living conditions abroad, and the government support mechanisms available to them during their stay.

Globe Kababayan is also collaborating with the *Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc.* to present the *Bagong Bayani Awards*, a national search for outstanding and exemplary OFWs. The categories include the prestigious Blas F. Ople "*Natatanging Bagong Bayani*" Award as well as tributes to workers who have excelled in community and social services, and in culture and arts.

Events and activities for OFW families will also receive support from Globe Kababayan, including the Family Day and *Pamaskong Handog* spearheaded by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). The OWWA Family Day is a yearly gathering of OFWs and their families, a time of bonding and celebration that strengthens family ties across borders. Finally, OWWA's *Pamaskong Handog* gives a special welcome and fun treats to OFWs who are coming home to spend the holidays with their families.

Be part of the Globe Kababayan family

Globe Kababayan truly understands the needs of OFW's and their families, and thus aims to uplift them through reliable connectivity, helpful benefits and services, and empowering projects. Buy a Globe Prepaid or TM SIM now from the nearest outlet. And if you are already part of the Globe family, you can start enjoying Globe Kababayan's roster of new offerings by simply texting **GK** to **2442.** For more info on Globe Kababayan, log on to www.globekababayan.com.

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OPINION

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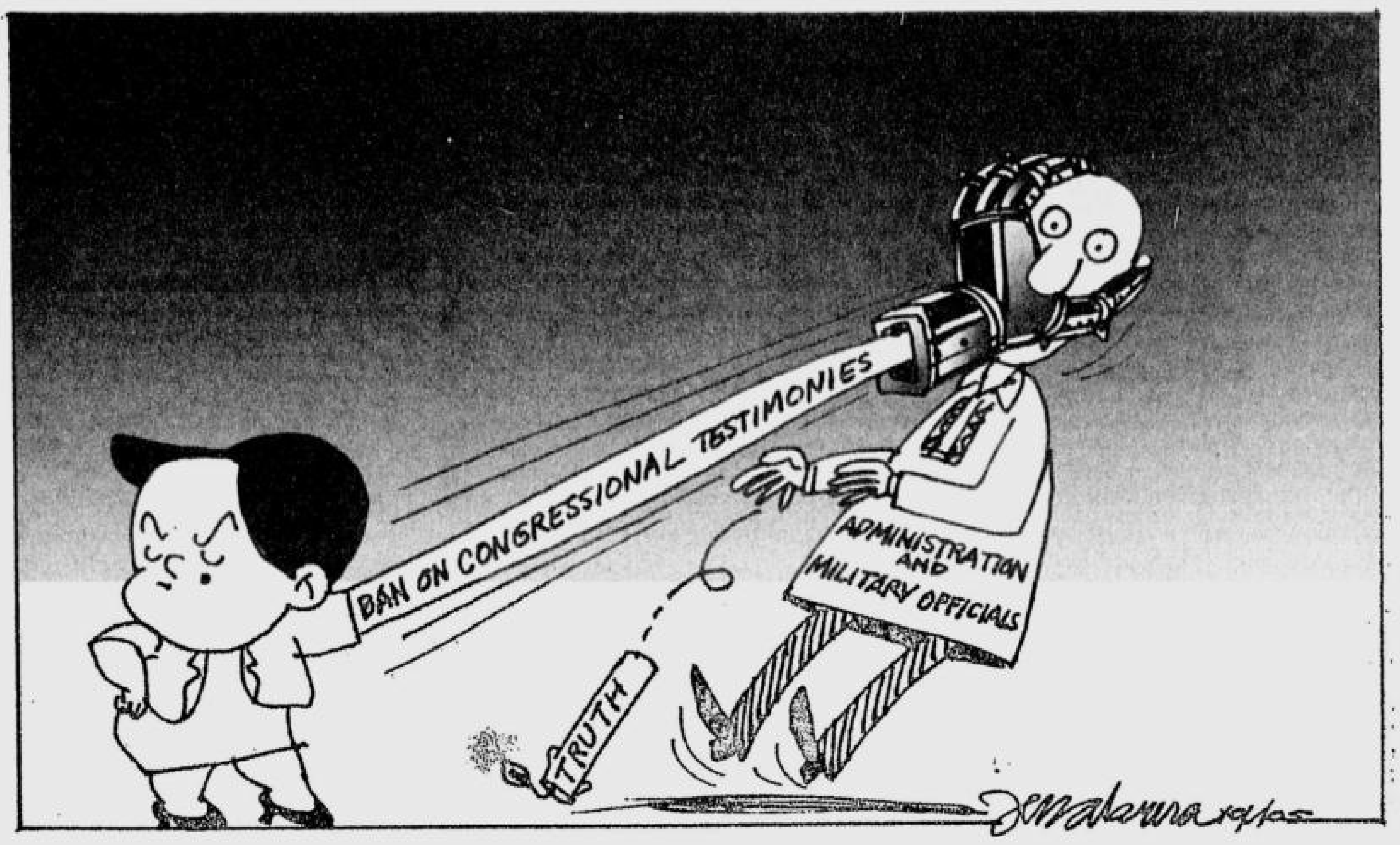

BAN ON CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONIES
ADMINISTRATION AND MILITARY OFFICIALS
TRUTH

Confrontation

EDITORIAL

THE LATE INDONESIAN STRONGMAN ACHMED Sukarno coined a phrase to describe his hostile policy against Malaysia: he called it "konfrontasi." At certain points, because of the Philippine claim to Sabah, the Philippines joined in the konfrontasi of Indonesia. This word should be familiar to President Macapagal-Arroyo from her father's time.

The administration has mounted a frontal assault on the Senate. In reality, it is directed not just against the upper house but against Congress as a whole. An excitable congressman compared Executive Order No. 464 to a "declaration of war." In many ways, it is. Malacañang uses the Constitution, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials, the Revised Penal Code and the Administrative Code, in what it proclaims to be a presidential issuance to ensure "observance of the principle of the separation of powers, adherence to the rule of executive privilege, and respect for the rights of public officials appearing in legislative inquiries," and so on and so forth.

The order is patently not intended to achieve what it claims to be its objectives; it is intended to shield the President and her people from uncomfortable questions and investigations, period. The Constitution and the laws are merely being invoked to prevent Congress and the public from putting the executive department on the spot. In other words, the executive order is an attempt to shield the administration from accountability to Congress and the public.

The President's order invokes Art. VI, Sec. 22 of the Constitution, which states: "The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House...appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments." This provision was meant to institutionalize the parliamentary practice of the "question hour" in Congress—a practice that was attempted by Congress once or twice, most notably when then Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo faced questions from the lower house. This valuable practice was discontinued under administrations subsequent to Corazon Aquino's.

The Constitution is specific as to the officials who require presidential approval before they may appear in Congress, and as to the circumstances or limitations of such appearance. It does not cover—neither does a reasonable reading of the provision imply that it is meant to apply to—every single official belonging to the executive department, and certainly not officers of the Armed Forces.

The President's order also attempts to use the Code of Ethical Conduct (which is meant to promote exactly what its title means, not to serve as a cloak to hide things from the people) and the Penal Code (a law with colonial origins, which was meant to protect and uphold the sovereignty and supreme authority of the American colonial government) to prevent the revelation of "secrets," defined, incidentally, by Malacañang to mean anything that the President and her people decide as something the public and Congress ought not to know.

This contravenes the provisions of Art. II, Sec. 28 of the Constitution, which adopts a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest; and Art. III (Bill of Rights), Sec. 7, which asserts the right of the people to information on matters of public concern. Both provisions do admit to limitations that may be imposed by law. But the time has come to seriously question whether our 75-year-old Penal Code provisions, enacted in a time very different from the present, and the use of the Ethical Code and Administrative Code to prevent Congress from exercising its oversight functions, and the public from being informed, are not only hindrances to the effectiveness of the Constitution, but directly contradict its provisions, at least as interpreted by the President.

Congress possesses what is called oversight powers over the executive branch of government, as part of the principle of checks and balances. The President has signed a document that directly challenges those powers, and thus, has confronted the country with a challenge: that principle must be interpreted in her favor. She wants to check and balance Congress, not the other way around. She has turned democracy on its head.

Executive Order No. 464

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE LEGAL ADVISERS WHO WROTE PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 prohibiting executive officials from appearing before any legislative investigation without her permission should bone up on their Constitutional Law or develop a little more backbone. Unless they were as ignorant as their boss, they should have boldly told her that the measure was unlawful and would provoke much protest, even from her supporters who know a little law.

And it is also impolitic because it is a direct slap on Congress. Unless she misreads her influence upon this co-equal body, especially the Senate, her insolent act is a declaration of war she cannot win. She clearly does not have the moral and more so the legal right to challenge Congress in its own turf. Even the oppositionist legislators are against her.

It seems that she and her legal staff are still relying on the Constitution of 1935, which provided in its Art. VI, Sec. 24, that:

"The heads of departments upon their own initiative or upon the request of either House may appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments *unless the public interest shall require otherwise and the President shall so state in writing*." (Stress supplied)

This provision was slightly modified when the Constitution of 1973 provided for the regular interrogation of the Prime Minister and his Ministers by the legislators except that "when the security of the State so requires and the Prime Minister shall so state in writing, the question hour shall be held in executive session."

The present Constitution of 1987 is not as restrictive. Its Art., VVI, Sec, 22 says in part:

"The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or *upon the request of either House*, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments." (Stress supplied)

Unless they were as ignorant as their boss, they should have boldly told her that the measure was unlawful

The disjunctive "or" contemplates two situations when the department heads may appear before a legislative inquiry. The first is when they do so on their own initiative but always with the permission of the President. The other is when their appearance is requested by either House of Congress, notably even without the consent of the President.

Those who protest the separation of powers against the Senate should take note of this constitutional exception.

This provision, one of the many changes in the present charter intended to reduce the executive powers that Marcos abused, no longer allows the President to prevent Congress from looking into the activities of the Cabinet members by simply withholding his permission. A department head who refuses to appear before a legislative inquiry by invoking the old presidential dodge may now be punished for contempt of the House he has disobeyed.

Even the President's reliance on "executive privilege" is a desperate hope. President Nixon invoked this defense in the Watergate scandal but the US Supreme Court did not sustain him in the case of United States vs. Richard M. Nixon, 418 US 863.

One gets the feeling that President Arroyo is afraid that her subordinates may reveal information she would rather keep secret. That is why she would dare antagonize Congress—and the public as well—by interfering with the functions and powers of a co-equal branch of the government and muzzling freedom of expression and the right to information of the people in general.

In Arnault vs. Nazareno, 87 Phil. 29, the petitioner was imprisoned in the national penitentiary for refusing to identify the person to whom he had delivered the sum of P440,000, part of the amount Congress had appropriated for the purchase of the Tambobong-Buenavista Estate. He said he could not remember and the Senate declared him in contempt. The Supreme Court denied him relief and held that his release depended solely upon his improved memory.

This serious conflict between Congress and the President should be resolved soon, hopefully by the Supreme Court in the proper proceeding. Meantime, legislative investigations of the Garci tapes, the Venable contract, the North Railway project, and other questionable issues against Ms Arroyo are effectively suspended by her Executive Order No. 464.

Lessons from a gridlock

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"PARALYSIS," "GRIDLOCK," "UNSTABLE GOVernment," "sick man of _____," "ailing economy," "sleek budgets necessary to combat rising national debt," "government incapable of tough decisions on tackling sluggish economic growth," "country needs political clarity and a government that can reform tax...systems," "economists warn decisive action is needed to invigorate the sluggish economy." Words and phrases describing the current Philippine political and economic situation? Guess again. These are all quotes from reports and analyses of the situation prevailing in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The irony. Here we have enthusiastic Charter change advocates proclaiming that the problems of the Philippines would be solved if we but changed from a presidential, unitary form of government to a parliamentary, federal form of government—one presumably similar to that obtaining in Germany. Yet, this model of the political state that Charter-change advocates espouse is having problems that are strikingly similar to ours!

For example, it has been claimed that a parliamentary system will prevent the legislative gridlocks and delays we so often experience—the most glaring being the inability of our Congress to pass the national budget on time, with the budgets being reenacted (i.e., the budget of the previous year is used) for 2001 and 2004. The 2004 budget would have been reenacted for this year's budget had the 2005 General Appropriations Act not been passed—albeit quite late in March this year. And because of the greater ability in a parliamentary government to take fast and decisive action, then—their argument goes—economic growth and progress will also be faster. (Note: the gridlocks they refer to is actually caused more by our bicameral legislature than by our presidential system; the Charter-change advocates often seem to confuse a parliamentary form of government with a unicameral system.)

Well, I've got news for them. Germany, with its parliamentary system, is experiencing just such a gridlock, with pundits shaking their heads at the political impasse that has the Germans not knowing, almost two weeks after elections (results come out within a day), who will be governing them, i.e., who will be their chancellor (the equivalent of prime minister). The two largest parties in that country, you see, are both claiming that they have a clear mandate—or that the other party's claim of victory has not been confirmed by the electorate. (The difference is that, over there, no one is complaining he or she was cheated.)

How did the impasse arise? (1) Start with simple arithmetic: No one among the five parties got a clear majority in the German Bundestag (parliament). The conservative (right-of-center) Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), together won 35.2 percent of the vote, compared to the 34.3 percent that went to the left-of-center Social Democratic Party (SPD), according to the official results. In number of seats, the former got 225, the latter 222. The Alliance '90/Greens, won 8.1 percent or 51 seats; the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP) 9.8 percent or 61 seats; and the Left Party (formerly the Party of Democratic Socialism) 8.7 percent or 54 seats.

(2) Now, consider the following: Except for the 1966-69 CDU/CSU-SDP "Grand Coalition" government, all German governments since the establishment of the Federal Republic have been coalitions of either of these two parties with one of the smaller parties. (The current government is a coalition between the Social Democrats and the Greens.) Unfortunately, this time, no combination of big and small parties appear capable of forming a majority, given the election results—since none of the small parties garnered the 15 or 16 percent of the vote needed for any coalition to achieve a majority of the Bundestag seats.

(3) At the same time, the potential for a three-party coalition—either the so-called "Jamaica coalition" because the colors of the three parties are the same colors as those of the Jamaican flag (black for the CDU/CSU, yellow for the FDP, and green for the Greens), or the "traffic-light coalition" or red-yellow-green (the SDP flag is red)—is a practical impossibility, because the yellows refuse to have anything to do with the greens.

(4) On the other hand, a "Grand Coalition" between the blacks and the reds (which did happen once in the postwar history of Germany), while seemingly more probable than the triple groupings, still has much to hurdle—the biggest stumbling block or the stickiest issue being who would be chancellor (CDD/CSU's Angela Merkel or SDP's Gerhard Schroder?). Many fear that the merger "would be too internally divided to be effective." At this writing, the two groups are "talking," but formal negotiations have not started. Neither has the subject of the chancellery been raised. Everybody is walking on eggshells while the German people wait. There are fears that such a government would be incapable of making the tough decisions needed to tackle sluggish growth—Germany has been labeled the "sick man of Europe"

So there's your impasse. The Bundestag meets on Oct. 18, but if it cannot choose a winner in three tries, German President Horst Koehler can appoint a minority government, raising the specter of instability and another election before the parliament's four-year term is up.

Get real, folks. The message of the current German political crisis is clear: Changing the system from presidential to parliamentary is like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. So can we please turn our attention to more productive pursuits?

Vintage Reuter

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST SEPT. 5, HOURS BEFORE THE HOUSE BEgan its plenary voting on the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, awarded the 89-year-old Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. the Congressional Medal of Achievement. The award cited Father Reuter's "unconditional gift of love and service for the Filipinos" as epitomized by his role as a "freedom fighter" during the Japanese occupation. It cited how he endured incarceration and starvation at the prison camp in Los Baños, where he provided "a source of strength and inspiration for others through his songs and prayers." The citation also paid tribute to the role of this blue-eyed priest from New Jersey, United States—who had become a Filipino citizen decades ago—"in defending press freedom, human rights and democracy" during the post-war dictatorship, and his "exceptional talent and dedication to serve." The conferment of the award provided a most welcome respite from all the thick politicking.

* * *

Father Reuter served his adopted people "through teaching, writing and directing world-class plays and dramas, coaching basketball and debating teams, inculcating ethical principles as retreat master, spiritual counselor, columnist." The congressional award recognized how he shaped the hearts, minds and souls of generations of Filipinos with his words and deeds in the fields of education, history, arts and communications—molding the vision and values of the nation's future leaders, transforming them into men and women for others. But it was as the "single most effective communicator of the Catholic Church in East Asia," through organizations Father Reuter founded in the mass media—such as the Family Theater and the Federation of Catholic Broadcasters—"as well as the humanitarian initiatives for the betterment of the less fortunate as exemplified in his work in the Hospital of Our Lady of Peace" that he was recognized.

* * *

Among the legions who fell under Father Reuter's spell and tutelage in the old Ateneo de Manila was my brother Roger Olivares, a businessman and the author of a number of books, including his latest, which he describes as "a sequel" to Dr. Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere." Roger, one of the bright boys in his AB class in the late '50s, was its orator and debater, and he wrote this of his mentor:

"Fr. Reuter has the intensity of a hurricane, the romanticism of a crusader, the perfectionism of a Michelangelo, the humanity of a doting father and the holiness of a deeply religious person. When we were in high school, he became coach of the basketball jayvees. He ran every afternoon for many kilometers around the Ateneo Loyola campus, pushing basketball stars like Ed Ocampo, Cary Sevilla, Henry Wong, Oscar Africa and Felix Amante to the limit. Cary recalls that sometimes they'd try to sneak out and take the shortcut, but Father Reuter was always there to foil their tricks. He had more energy than anyone of them.

"As director of drama and the Ateneo Glee Club, he chose romantic songs that made *colegialas* swoon, such as 'Some Enchanted Evening' as sung by Bobby Paterno. Reuter's intense humanity and dedication to the priesthood was evident from a personal experience he once related at a retreat ... in one of the dramatic plays he directed, he decided to use a live baby in a scene. At a rehearsal, when he picked up the baby to take it to the stage, he felt a strange feeling go through his body. He suddenly felt the joy of having one's own baby in his arms, of being a parent, which he had given up to become a priest. For all his spirituality, he never ceased to be human.

"Reuter is an avowed perfectionist. I had the great blessing of being coached by him during our college years. Maybe, I was that tough to work on, but he'd make me lie on the floor of the auditorium stage where the contest would be held, e.g., St. Paul's, Assumption, FEU. Then he'd put a big book on my stomach and make me deliver my speech. If the book was bobbing up and down, that meant I was speaking through my diaphragm, which was how it should be. People wandering into the auditorium thought there was a ghost on the stage.

"Reuter organized the first postwar Ateneo debating society, and for the first debate he pitted Roman Cruz Jr., Santiago Robles and myself against the UP Student Catholic Action team of Fernando Lagua, Ely Alampay and Sally Atienza. Over the years he developed debaters such as Domingo Siazon Jr., Francis Garchitorena, Adolfo Azcuna, Art Borjal, Assandas Balchand, Rollie Quintos, Ruben Balane and many more.

"He always had something up his sleeves. After 30 years, I saw him in Union Square in San Francisco, where he brought a drama group to celebrate the return of democracy in the Philippines. After a hug, he ordered me to take my coat off and take charge of the stage lights. Vintage Reuter.

"At the wake of the late Henry Francia, I saw Reuter in deep meditation and in his homily, he recalled first of the fun days of those Ateneo years, and then spoke of Henry's love and compassion and caring for his wife, the former Betsy Romualdez. He was also speaking of himself and the thousands of students he cared for, who lovingly called him 'Camote.' Someday someone has to interpret this title for Fr. Reuter."

* * *

Attention: Devotees of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Today, her feast day, the regular 6:30 a.m. Mass will be said at the Carmel of St. Therese, 4 Gilmore Ave., Quezon City. And at 6 p.m. tonight, a solemn Mass will be celebrated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, with the San Jose Seminary Choir providing the songs. This will be followed by the veneration of the saint's relic, and devotees are enjoined to bring roses to be blessed.

China's trains

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SHANGHAI—If China is the future, then Shanghai is where China's future lies, say observers. Indeed, this city, which forms with Beijing the bipolar axis of power in China—Beijing the center of political might, Shanghai the bustling take-off point for China's leap into global dominance in trade and commerce—seems more outward-looking, more cosmopolitan.

There is a "vibe" in its streets and street markets, its malls, and especially in the upmarket mixed-use development in a former European settlement (where fast-food outlets of global brands mingle with upscale boutiques and trendy restaurants) that isn't found anywhere in Beijing. It's easy enough to imagine one transposed to Greenbelt or Eastwood, or even New York or London, especially when one takes in the flashy outfits of the crowd of tourists, expats and white-collar workers.

To be sure, Shanghai is blighted, too, by all the ills of urbanization, given the blistering pace of its development. Traffic is horrendous, and navigating its narrow twisting roads can be a living nightmare. This despite the efforts of authorities to limit the number of vehicles in the city by imposing a punishing tax on private cars. Ten years ago, Pudong, the area across the Yangtze River from the famous "Bund" of the old Shanghai, was dusty and barren, a virtual desert dotted with construction equipment. Today, it is chock-full of skyscrapers, office buildings and factories.

Symbolic of Shanghai's thrust toward the future is the "Maglev" or magnetic levitation train—currently the world's fastest—that takes passengers from the city to the airport. Constructed with German technology and financial aid, the train moves at an amazing 430 km per hour, speeding passengers to the airport in about eight minutes, for the ticket price of Y40 or about P280. But indicative of the headlong, and perhaps heedless rush toward the future are doubts about the project's financial viability, with even common residents agreeing that there's no way Shanghai's government could recover its $1.2-billion cost. Still, as symbols go, the sleek, smooth Maglev serves the city's forward-looking attitude well.

* * *

OUR party of Philippine journalists made our way from Beijing to Shanghai on a much slower, but no less efficient train, a 12-hour express that left the Beijing station at exactly 7:10 p.m. and arrived at Shanghai at 7 a.m.

It was my first time to ride on a "sleeper," in a first-class "soft" compartment—so-called because there are mattresses on the double bunks—and I was quite excited about the experience. "It's like you're on a sleepover," my companions laughed.

There are many options for passengers on the Beijing-to-Shanghai Express. The "soft" sleepers, which are available at two-bed and four-bed configurations, are quite pricey, going for about $100 each for the two-bed arrangement. There are cheaper "hard" accommodations, that is, wooden bunks without any mattresses, and, of course there are seats as well. The 16-car train also had a diner car (usually the No. 9 coach, we were told) which makes it possible for groups to bond over meals, coffee and card games.

Though cramped and narrow, the sleeper compartments are clean and efficiently designed, each with a small private washroom, a small table and an armchair. As the train sped across the Chinese countryside, I snuggled beneath a thick duvet, a small lamp providing enough illumination for reading. The swaying train soon lulled me to sleep, though I would snap awake whenever it slowed down and shuddered.

I woke up as soon as sunlight streamed through our windows, then we made our slow way to the diner car for a breakfast of coffee and buns. Entering Shanghai by train provides a gentle transition, with the views of farmlands and countryside soon replaced with suburban sprawl and then urban structures. Not a bad introduction to this busy metropolis.

* * *

EARLIER on the day we left Beijing, we paid a call on the manager of the Beijing Station of China Railways, which runs and manages the 70,000-km rail network that criss-crosses this vast country.

There are four train lines emanating from the Beijing station, including three international lines that bring passengers and cargo to Russia, North Korea and Mongolia. During peak season, we were told, 103 trains leave the station each day, carrying an average of 120,000 passengers daily.

With much pride, the station manager, saluted smartly by all uniformed personnel he passed by, brought us to the computerized surveillance rooms, where the platforms and tracks, as well as all corners of the sprawling station, are monitored.

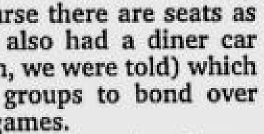
There didn't seem to be all that many people when we dropped by the station in the morning, but as we rushed to catch our ride to Shanghai that evening, we found ourselves lost in a mob of commuters, coming to and going from any of the station's eight platforms, waiting rooms, lounges and eateries. No wonder the manager boasted that the Beijing Station alone reports an annual income of Y3.35 billion, or about P21 billion!

* * *

ALSO in our itinerary on our last day in Beijing was a visit to the Beijing depot, where coaches, wheels and other equipment are parked for cleaning, testing, monitoring and repair.

Managers of the China National Machinery and Equipment Group (CNMEG), which is constructing and providing equipment for the proposed North Luzon Railway, showed us coaches that would be similar in design to the ones to be used for Northrail. The contract with Northrail, they added, includes the setting up of a depot and establishment of a monitoring and repair system similar to that practiced by China Railways.

After earthquakes and shipwrecks



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TWO MARITIME MISFORTUNES IN 1600 INvolved the galleons San Geronimo and San Margarita. The two left Cavite together in July of that year. They were on the high seas when they encountered a tempest so furious that they got separated.

The Sta. Margarita reached one of the Ladrones Islands (specifically, Saipan) where those who were healthy were enslaved by the natives. The sick were beaten to death.

Interestingly, one of the victims was a young Spaniard whose ship had stopped in Guam some years before to get provisions on its way to Manila. (The Guamanians used to exchange fresh water for iron bars.) Anyway, this boy shot one of the natives with his harquebus, reportedly just for fun. This caused quite a stir. When the story reached Manila, the friars even spoke against him from their pulpits. But God who doesn't sleep obviously brought him back to that group of islands and saw to it that he met his just deserts. This account should show you that the God of the Old Testament was in vogue then.

The San Geronimo, on the other hand, reached Japan where the winds were so strong they could not cast anchor. The typhoon destroyed its first deck and left most of the vessel in poor shape. Finding themselves without lumber, without rudder, without riggings, without a pilot, those on the ship who survived the storm had no other choice but to return to the Philippines. After eight months at sea, the galleon arrived in Catanduanes with only seven on board, one of them a woman.

Aside from shipwrecks, Manila had also its share of earthquakes, shipwrecks and Moro raids. Fires were also a frequent occurrence. There was hardly a year when a barrio or two or three were not hit by fire. The worst of these conflagrations was the one that occurred on May 1, 1603. It started in a small hut at three in the afternoon. The blaze spread to the neighboring houses and, within a small space of time, aided by the wind, burned and flattened a third of the city, destroying as well stone structures that lay on its path.

It was the era of the Galleon Trade, and some of the houses had merchandise stored on their ground floors. Some inventories were estimated to be worth up to P160,000. If we count in the value of the houses and the other property that were destroyed, the total loss from that fire must have run up to more than a million pesos. Twenty-five people died, including a high religious official assigned to the cathedral. But the most painful loss, according to Fr. Pedro Chirino, a chronicler of that era, was the destruction of the Royal Hospital, which was full of sick people; and that of the convent and part of the church of Sto. Domingo, which had been spared by an earthquake three years earlier. The priests, at least, were able to consume all the consecrated hosts and save the life-size, ivory image of Our Lady of La Naval, which even then was considered very costly. The Dominicans were welcomed by the Jesuits to their quarters, where the former stayed as guests up to the time they were able to rebuild their church and convent.

Immediately after the reconstruction was finished, a procession was held with all the religious orders and the government officials attending. The image of Our Lady of La Naval was carried on the shoulders of the friars. They passed by the places that had been destroyed by the fire and were still the source of coals for incense burners despite the time that had elapsed.

Almost at the same time that this was happening in Manila, another fire struck the new Jesuit residence in Silang. The fire started at the Maestro de Capilla's house near the church. It destroyed the church and neighboring structures as well. The priests were only able to save a few sacred ornaments and a drawing of their founder St. Ignatius, who was believed to have been instrumental in saving the galleon Sto. Tomas.

The drawing had been brought to Silang by Fr. Pedro de Segura. Because of the drawing, St. Ignatius was also credited for sparing the town from the fire. As the church and nearby houses burned, the wind blew, fanning the fire. The Jesuit priests who were in Silang at the time, worried that if the town burned, their efforts at evangelization would suffer greatly, with the natives losing both heart and interest in the Christian faith.

With that in mind, their vice provincial of the Jesuits, Fr. Diego Garcia, ordered one of his companions to take the drawing and bring it near the fire and had it face the flames, while he and the others knelt and prayed the litanies. As soon as the image came close to the flames, the blaze stopped spreading, and the nearby houses, including those that were made of bamboo, were spared. That was considered a miracle and because of that, the natives became very devoted to the saint and to his image. The drawing was kept in the church (I wonder what happened to it). And it came to pass that priests would bring a holy picture of St. Ignatius to the sick, and the saint was believed to have done many miracles through his image.

Among those destroyed by the fire was a beautifully carved altar. Of the Jesuit convent, nothing was left—no chair, bed, table, bench or clothing except for what the fathers were wearing. No food was saved either, much less plates and glasses. The Jesuits were left to spend the night without shelter and without dinner. Happily, the people of Silang took them in, and the following day the Augustinians from Tanauan and other religious from Manila came to help.

(Data from Colin quoting Chirino from "Labor Evangelico")

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Orange slices and the EVAT

YOUNG BLOOD

Ina Alleco R. Silverio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAD IT IN MY HEAD TO WRITE SOMETHING LIGHT AND funny. I wanted to write about how my friend Tonyo and I went to buy two inflatable "orange slices" which, when blown up, were five feet in diameter each, and where one could comfortably sit and lie down as if he or she were on a regular sofa. They cost us only P70 each.

Anyway, I wanted to write about how hilarious it was when we got to my house and tried to inflate one of the slices with a bicycle air pump. There we were giving our shoulders, necks and arms a brutal workout while it took forever for the air to get in, as the orange slice just lay flat on the floor, looking bored.

I wanted to write how, through all that unscheduled session of physical exercise, I fervently and desperately imagined myself sitting on the slice, holding in one hand a tall glass of, well, orange juice choked with ice cubes, and in the other, a book by Camus or Sartre (but most likely something by Stephen King) while Tchaikovsky played on the CD player.

Well, I'm not going to write about any of those things. I am too angry.

It's official, the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the new EVAT law. What were those old men and women thinking?

The new EVAT puts an end to tax exemptions on the sale of electricity and oil products; coal, natural gas and indigenous fuels; cotton, cotton seeds and non-food agricultural products; domestic air and sea transport; medical and legal services; works of art and literary works.

Constitutional? There is nothing in the Philippine Constitution that says the government can impose laws that will drive Filipinos to even greater depths of penury. This Supreme Court decision is an unforgivable assault on the Filipino people, and the justices who approved of the EVAT's constitutionality have become party to Malacañang's relentless undermining of the economic well-being of the poor and the middle class.

Watching movies in theaters has already become a luxury. Unless somebody else pays for me, I can afford to go to movie houses three times a year only. I don't care what the regulatory agencies and the Philippine National Police say—I love the pirated DVDs and CDs in Quiapo. They're all I can afford.

Even going to work has become literally an exercise in austerity. I've been taking the long route because the transport fares, ironically, add up cheaper. I get to save a "whopping" P2.50 per day, never mind that I have to travel 15 minutes longer (yes, I've timed it).

And I haven't been ironing my clothes. Sometimes I go to work looking fresh out of the dryer, my blouses on the rumply side, my slacks with little bits of fluff on them.

I buy generic bands of tissue paper, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, garbage bags. My clothes are courtesy of the *ukay-ukay* stores in Anonas and Cubao. At night, I read by candlelight, I don't turn on the electric fan and, instead, I light mosquito coils whose fumes I've become weirdly addicted to. I've switched to the cheaper cellular network. Most of my books are from Booksale or have been significantly marked down, from Powerbooks. Whenever I can, I walk instead of riding, because a 5-minute ride costs P7.50.

There have been nights when my dinners came right off from a series of cans—canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned everything. Why? They're cheaper than take-outs or having to cook for just one person (when my husband gets back, he'll be the one to cook; but right now, it's "Delata Deluxe" for me).

But despite all this, compared to the majority of Filipinos who don't have jobs, homes and health care, I'm well aware I'm still living a charmed life. Who else is going to bear the brunt of the new EVAT but the already suffering majority? If I'm complaining, wouldn't they have an even greater right and reason to do so?

And to fight back?

The timing of the Supreme Court decision on the wretched EVAT is very suspicious and disgusting. It coincided with the cold-blooded murder of the amended impeachment complaint against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the hands of her brainless, "soul-less," "conscience-less" allies in the House justice committee.

The people aren't dumb. They can put two and two together. Malacañang worked overtime to orchestrate the junking of the impeachment complaint and to literally buy time—and a fighting chance—for Ms Arroyo. The Court's previous decision granting a TRO on the implementation of the new EVAT was seen as a product of Malacañang's behind-the-scene operation to deflect a little heat away from a President of dubious legitimacy.

Hah! But Ms Arroyo and her cohorts are mistaken. Whatever relief or time the murder of the impeachment complaint has bought her has been immediately negated by the high court's decision on the new EVAT. Without doubt, the public outrage over the ignominious law, once implemented, will be widespread, and the political backlash will be as severe on the already highly unpopular and illegitimate presidency.

It's only big business and the foreign creditors who are having a field day with the new the EVAT; but they won't be rejoicing for long. Something's got to give. And it won't be the militants among the Filipino people. There'll be more protest actions, including transport strikes and—I'm keeping my fingers crossed—a Welgang Bayan. By its own doing, the government is forcing Filipinos out into the streets.

I'm an awfully impatient person; but I'm determined to wait for the day when the Filipino people's problems will only be as "complex and serious" as, say, inflating orange slices with a bicycle air pump. I cannot and will not accept this state of things. To allow such a government, such a system to remain in power goes against everything that is good and pure in humanity. (Hmm, I really do think that all those hours spent watching cartoons on various superheroes battling against the forces of evil have had their impact on me.)

I don't care if it takes 30 more years, or 50, for the balance of power to tip in favor of the exploited; or if I don't see such tipping at all: it's enough for me to know that it is inevitable.

In the meantime, I have to go home later and bring my orange slice to the vulcanizing shop to have it fully inflated. If you see a girl dragging a giant orange slice down the street and looking harassed, that would be me.

Ina Alleco R. Silverio, 29, is the chief of staff of Anakpawis Party-List Rep. Crispin Beltran.

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PCGG should follow Yorac's footsteps

WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE current administration of the Presidential Commission on Good Government seems to be veering away from the legal position taken by the late Haydee Yorac, PCGG's former chair, on the coco levy funds. With her absence, another compromise agreement on the coco levy issue is being promoted with businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Yorac's untimely demise should instead prod government to push for the full recovery of the funds in favor of the millions of impoverished small coconut farmers. During Yorac's term as PCGG chair, the country's small coconut farmers made historic inroads in their struggle to recover the coconut levy funds, the ownership of which is being contested by Cojuangco and Cocofed. Yorac never wavered in her stand that the coconut levy funds are public in character. Neither did she entertain any form of compromise agreement that could jeopardize the integrity of the funds.

The current PCGG leadership must immediately dismiss the proposals coming from the camp of Cojuangco to forge another compromise agreement on the ownership of the funds. Yorac, for many years, stood for the interest of the small coconut farmers and farmworkers. She never abandoned the small coconut farmers until her last breath.

Her successors in the PCGG are morally and legally bound to follow the examples she set. They are expected to do nothing less.

—OMI ROYANDOYAN,
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Cheapest and fastest road to energy independence

ALTHOUGH ETHANOL AND biodiesel are both viable solutions to the fuel crisis facing the world community, I must point out that conservation and fuel efficiency aren't just stopgap solutions. They are, in fact, very much part of the solution, and the quickest, cheapest and fastest way toward energy independence.

There is no use running our SUVs with ethanol if their mileage continues to fall below 11 miles per gallon. Ethanol and biodiesel are not proven to improve the fuel efficiency of cars. (But biodiesel is known as an engine cleaner.)

It will be yet another useless law for the Philippines to mandate fuel standards but, perhaps, the spike in fuel prices will make consumers think about the fuel efficiency of their vehicles more than the horsepower (potential, but never can be tested because of traffic) they have.

—LYRA DUMDUM RAKUSIN,
North Carolina Solar Center
at NC State University,
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Why the Philippines remains impoverished

I READ FR. RUFINO PEPOYE CAbatingan's view on poverty in the Philippines. (Letters, 9/20/05) It is an issue I have been trying to answer. Why does the Philippines remain poor, or why are there so many poor people in the Philippines? I would like to give my answer to the question.

Poverty is not by fate, it is by choice. Some Filipinos remain impoverished because they are contented with what they are and they do not make the initiative to get out of their situation. They concede that it is by fate that they are there.

Some blame the government for doing nothing but that is just the way it is. Filipinos should never rely on the government to help them escape from their sad plight. It is like asking for the moon.

Being religious is one thing. Having faith in God is another. So is aspiring and working hard against all odds.

—EDUARDO LUIS,
eduardoluis@optusnet.com.au

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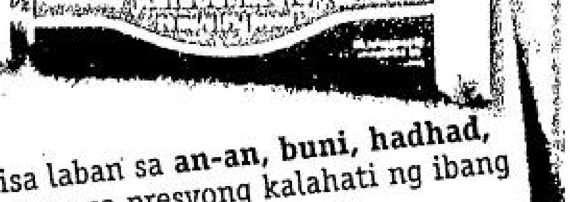

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Iloilo park breeds endangered hornbills

THE HORNBILL is found only in the remaining low to mid-elevation forests in Panay and Negros Islands. MA. DIOSA LABISTE

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Lambunao, Iloilo

AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS of mating and nesting, two pairs of critically endangered hornbills have successfully bred in captivity at Mari-it Conservation Park in Lambunao, Iloilo, producing three fledglings that are now the toast of conservation circles worldwide.

The captive breeding of the Visayas writhed-billed hornbill (*Aceros waldeni*), is said to be the first in the world, according to Lucia Lastimoza, director of Mari-it Conservation Park.

A result of 10 years of experiment, it buoyed up hopes that the bird will be saved from extinction.

The 6-month-old fledglings were named Glory, Mickie and Lulu, after President Macapagal-Arroyo, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and Lourdes Arañador, the president of West Visayas State University (WVSU) that hosts the conservation park.

Lastimoza said the young birds were so named because of their namesakes' generous support to conservation work.

Glory and Lulu are the offspring of Habagat and Tarithi while Mickie's parents are Wowie and Amihan.

The hornbill, locally known as *dulungan*, is found only in the remaining low to mid-elevation forests in Panay and Negros Islands.

Critically endangered

A fully grown bird stands 60 centimeters and has a wingspan of about one and a half meters. The *dulungan* is one of the spectacular forest birds because of its bright prominent beak and casque as well as its deep black plumage.

It is also one of the most critically endangered species of hornbills in the world, eight of which is found in the Philippines.

The Mari-it brochure said only 65 pairs of the *dulungan* remain in the wild and are confined to the Central Panay mountain range. Their number dropped to a critical level due to hunting and destruction of their habitat. Their loss is worrisome because the *dulungan* and other hornbill species are seed dispersers and are important to forest regeneration.

Lastimoza said the two pairs of *dulungan* started breeding in the second week of December last year when the skies had cleared, which was the start of the dry season. Inside their huge birdcages, the hornbills were provided with nest boxes resembling tree trunks with small openings.

Holed up in the nests, the females and, later, the chicks were fed by the males through the holes. The young birds fledged or learned how to fly in July but they were still fed by their male parents, done by passing the food, sometimes regurgitated food, through their beaks.

Lastimoza said it took 10 years before the conservation park successfully bred the hornbills because of the birds' characteristic: The females were fussy when it came to choosing a mate. The latter has to be strong to withstand the extremes of habitat fluctuation.

In the past, two male hornbills died during the breeding season because they grew weak from feeding their mates, often regurgitating food than what was necessary.

This year's successful captive breeding was due to the care given to the size of nest boxes and nutrition, said Lastimoza.

The nest boxes were bigger than the previous ones. The breeding pairs were also fed animal protein, such as mice, rats, insects and fruits, round the clock. They were also not disturbed by visitors.

Dancing the waltz

Lastimoza also gave credit to Pavel Hospodarsky, a visiting ornithologist and professional bird keeper from the Czech Republic, who shared his expertise in captive breeding.

In fact, when Lastimoza and Hospodarsky learned that the *dulungan* pairs have successfully bred, they waltzed around the birdcages, thrilled and elated. The celebration, however, will take place on Oct. 7 at the WVSU.

The Mari-it Conservation Park was established in 1993 by a memorandum between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Mulhouse Zoo in France. It is located in the 3,000-ha campus of WVSU's College of Agriculture and Forestry in Lambunao town.

The park hosts birds and animals rescued from pet traders and donated by collectors. It is also an education and research center that undertakes studies on endangered flora, fauna and habitat which eventually receives the animals released from the park.

Aside from *dulungan*, the Mari-it also notched two firsts—the captive breeding of Visayan warty pig (*Sus cebifrons*) and *dangag* or the blue-crowned racquet-tailed parrot (*Prionitorus discursus whiteheadi*). Endemic to Panay and Negros islands, the parrot is also endangered due to pet trade and loss of low to mid-elevation forests.

Five young *dangag*, in Mari-it were also named after Iloilo politicians—Junior (Lambunao Mayor Ignacio Ramirez Jr.) Frank (Sen. Franklin Drilon), Miriam (Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago), Arthur (Rep. Arthur Defensor) and Niel (Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas).

Lastimoza said she hoped that the politicians, like godparents, will support conservation efforts so their namesakes will survive when released in the wild.

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Girl calls for help to heal hole in heart

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

SIX-YEAR-OLD MAJAH EUnice Huyaban is your typical little girl who loves to play house. She enjoys listening to Sarah Geronimo's songs and attending Sunday school.

This picture of a sprightly child with a bright future has but one taint—Majah, who is in Kinder 2 at the La Paz Christian Learning Center in Iloilo City, may not live long enough to enjoy much of her childhood unless the hole in her heart is sealed and the blood flow to her heart is restored to normal.

The ductus arteriosus is a wide muscular blood vessel joining the pulmonary artery to the aorta (main artery to the body). This connection allows blood to be diverted from the lungs into the aorta during fetal development since the baby does not breathe until after delivery. The ductus arteriosus normally closes after birth.

In Majah's case, the ductus arteriosus failed to close and so her enlarged heart is overworked while her lungs have fluid, further increasing its workload, according to her pediatrician, Dr. Doris Mendoza.

There is still hope for Majah if the hole in her heart (*Patent Ductus Arteriosus*) is operated on as soon as possible, she said.

Majah's parents, Jason Rex and Cindy Huyaban are in their early 30s and Majah is their only child, making the little girl's possible demise a painful one to just even think of.

An open-heart surgery would cost about P200,000 and if it includes after-operation medicine, the Huyaban family would need P350,000 in all, said Dr. Mendoza.

Majah's mother, Cindy, 32, works as a cashier at the Iloilo Greenfield Marketing Corp. while her father works part-time at a logistics company in charge of trucking services and door-to-door delivery for Aboitiz Transport System Corp.

"We definitely can't afford it. All that we can afford is day-to-day expenses," said Cindy.

Living by faith

On top of her PDA, Majah also has Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), a congenital heart defect.

Mendoza said that in fetal circulation there is normally an opening between the two atria (the upper chambers of the heart) to allow blood to bypass the lungs. This opening usually closes about the time the baby is born. If the ASD is persistent, blood continues to flow from the left to the right atria. This is called a shunt.

In her echocardiography report dated Aug. 23, Mendoza said Majah's ASD is not as severe compared to last year's and that it is the PDA which needs immediate attention.

"We are living by faith and God's provisions. We are making life better and enjoyable for her. On Saturday, she plays in church and at home, she plays the piano," said Cindy.

Dr. Jonas del Rosario, a US-trained pediatrician specializing on children's heart problems at the Philippine General Hospital said a transcatheter device is the painless alternative procedure to open-heart surgery.

The procedure would cost a little more than open-heart surgery and spare the child from post-operation pain, said Del Rosario, an awardee of the 2005 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for pediatric cardiology.

"We have nothing but to trust God and obey what rings within our hearts," said the couple, who are requesting help from people who have money and kindness to spare. *(Cindy can be contacted at 0920-2261955.)*

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Terror suspects our men, says MILF

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERAtion Front (MILF) yesterday said three of the four men arrested in North Cotabato on suspicion of being Jemaah Islamiyah members are actually members of the rebel group.

On Wednesday, government forces manning a mobile checkpoint in Barangay Manuangan in Pigcawayan town arrested Kasan Datukon, 29; Abdulsalam Salik, 25; Sohudin Danda, 29, and Omar Bantas, 30.

An improvised bomb with a cell phone as a trigger device was also recovered from one of the suspects.

Senior Insp. Raulito Suyom, Pigcawayan police chief, said investigation showed the suspects boarded a jeep bound for Cotabato City.

He said Datukon, who was carrying the black backpack containing the explosive—a 60-mm mortar shell fitted with a cell phone as a trigger—initially sat in the front seat with the bag between his legs.

Upon reaching the village after Matilak, Datukon offered his seat to an old man and moved to the roof of the vehicle.

It is customary in the rural areas to offer one's seat to the elderly and women and to ride on the roofs of public utility vehicles.

At the checkpoint, authorities discovered the bomb and arrested the four suspects.

A Nokia 5110 mobile phone had been hooked up to the explosive while Datukon was carrying another phone, a Nokia 3310, with which he was going to call up the first phone to trigger the bomb, according to Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said based on the MILF's own investigation, Datukon was a military agent.

"He bought the bomb from a local bomb-maker for P25,000. He told the bomb-maker that the explosive would be used for the promotion of some military officers," Kabalu said.

He said the three suspects, Salik, Sohudin Danda and Bantas, had been framed up.

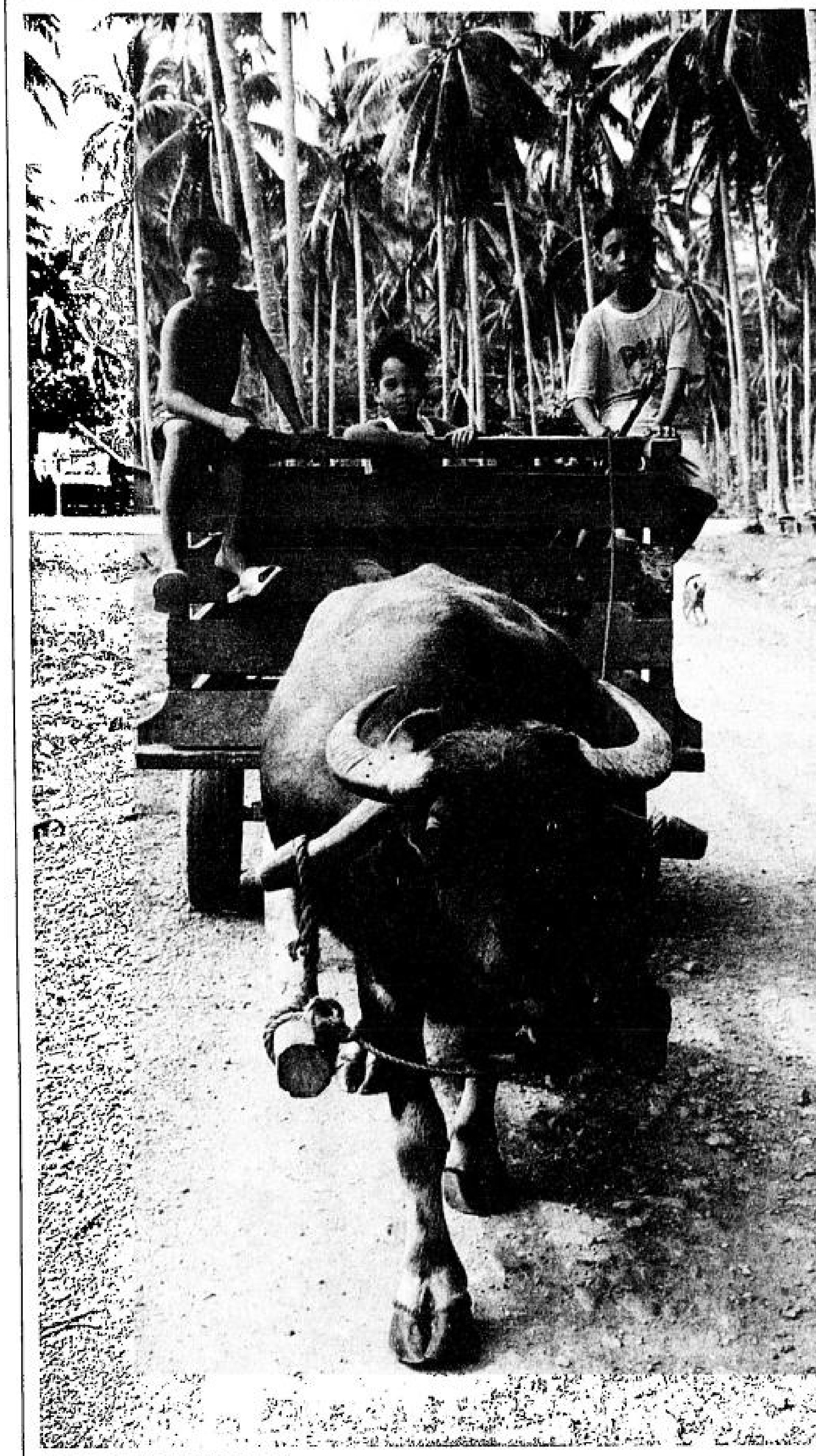
"They belong to Commander Gordon's group and they were innocent. It so happened they were on the same PUJ (public utility jeep) as the military agent," he said.

Kabalu said the arrests have become suspect from the start because the checkpoint was hastily set up.

"It has been years since authorities conducted inspection in the said area," he said.

Kabalu said while they know that the three MILF rebels are now under the custody of the Pigcawayan police, they do not know the whereabouts of the military agent anymore.

Dema-ala has earlier said Datukon was being interrogated at the headquarters of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Awang, Maguindanao. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



RURAL TRANSPORT DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Carabao-drawn carts are a familiar site in rural areas such as this in Governor Generoso town in Davao Oriental.

NPA vows justice as slain union head buried

CALAMBA CITY—DESPITE THE SCATHing heat of the sun, more than 2,000 people attended the funeral march for Diosdado "Ka Fort" Fortuna, the slain leader of the striking union of Nestlé Philippines who was buried at a public cemetery here in Barangay Homalan on Thursday afternoon.

Amid calls for justice for the murdered labor leader, the mourners and Fortuna's family blamed the military and President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly masterminding the killings of "perceived political opponents and dissidents" like Fortuna.

Fortuna's wife, Luz, said she still couldn't believe that "a good man like my husband was killed mercilessly in broad daylight."

"They could have just talked to him. Why did they have to kill him that way? My husband wanted nothing but fair treatment for ordinary workers like him," Luz said sobbing.

Fortuna, 50, was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding armed men last week while he was on his way home in Barangay Paciano Rizal this city.

He was the president of the Union of Filipro Employees-Drug and Food Alliance, the group of workers of the Nestlé plant in Cabuyao, Laguna who have been on strike for three years now over differences in the collective bargaining agreement.

He was also the chairman of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik), the regional organization of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno in the region.

Luz Baculo, Pamantik secretary general, said they are challenging the Calabarzon police and the local police investigators "to come up with a decent, honest and believable investigation."

Baculo scoffed at the initial report of the Calamba police which stated that the killing of Fortuna may have been caused by the supposed in-fighting within the "Leftist organization."

She also admitted that, like the murder of prominent Leftist leaders in the past, the case of Fortuna would likely become unsolved.

"We are holding Ms Arroyo responsible for Ka Fort's murder. We will not stop until justice is done to Ka Fort and dozens of others who were killed by the fascist military," Baculo told the INQUIRER.

The Laguna-based Nilo Hatol Command (NHC) of the New People's Army yesterday said they will ensure that "revolutionary justice" will be given to Fortuna and all other slain activists in the province.

In a statement obtained by the INQUIRER, the group said the labor leader was killed after the President declared the so-called calibrated preventive response which they said was a prelude to creeping martial law. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hundred Islands returns to Alaminos folk

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALAMINOS CITY—AFTER 65 YEARS, the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) has been returned to its "rightful owner," the people of this city, during the formal management turnover of the country's first national park by the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) to the Alaminos government on Thursday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on June 21 Executive Order No. 436 that transferred the management, administration and maintenance of the HINP to the city government.

With the transfer, the city government will have full control over the park, the Lucap Bay and its foreshore areas.

PTA General Manager Robert Dean Barbers and Mayor Hernani Braganza led the turnover ceremonies held at the Lucap Wharf. The event was witnessed by officials from different government agencies, Japanese and local journalists and residents.

Historic

"This is a historic event. After 65 long years of dreaming and aspiring, the (HINP) finally belongs to the people of Alaminos. But this ownership comes with a big responsibility and we are giving our undying commitment to develop and protect our city's pride," Braganza said.

He said the city would develop the local tourism industry, in partnership with the provincial government. He said tourism is one of Gov. Victor Agbayani's development programs.

"Every [Alaminos resident] should be happy and proud because after more than six decades, we finally have a say on the park's care, development, management and protection," Braganza said.

The activities during the turnover included the unveiling of scale models of an Olympic-sized swimming pool to be donated by the PTA and of a food court and *pasalubong* (native delicacies) center.

Braganza earlier told reporters that a master plan had been prepared to recapture the park's "glorious days" when it was a premier destination among tourists.

The park has become an "alternative destination" in the past years, he said.

Challenge

The Department of Tourism is helping the city promote the park to Japanese tourists through the "Adopt an Island in Your Name" promo where 25 islands will be raffled off and symbolically named after the lucky tourists for a year.

Braganza said many organizations wanted to help in the development of the park "but the greatest challenge is how to maximize the islands' maximum capacity without destroying the environment."

The master plan includes the construction of native huts, each of which can accommodate at least six people, on the islands.

Other plans

The other plans are the establishment of a tourist assistance center and mooring and docking facilities, development of pavilions on Quezon Island, provision of *balsa-sa-isla* (rafts) and solar-powered light posts, portable toilets and dressing units.

But Braganza noted that the HINP still has environmental problems like the bleaching of corals in some parts of the park. He has asked an environmental non-government organization to study the causes of the bleaching.

"We have [reduced] illegal fishing in the park which is why the corals are growing back, but in some areas, the corals are turning white and dying," he said.

The city government has still to get rid of a 46-hectare fish pond operating inside the park.

The HINP, the first national park of the country, is composed of 123 islands and islets that are actually overgrown corals.

Top officials of Subic vow to work as a team

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—NEWLY appointed officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority have agreed to join hands and work together, assuring current and prospective investors here they will uphold the government agency's commitments to them and provide an atmosphere where doing business is easy for everyone.

In a joint statement released to reporters here on Thursday, SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga and Administrator Armand Arreza bared their intention to make Subic move forward and give more opportunities and generate revenues for the government.

"We have every intention of making our partnership work in order to propel the Subic Bay Freeport Zone into a self-sustaining and prime investment center and tourist destination," the statement said.

"We will jointly uphold the interests of our stakeholders particularly our locators, local communities and employees," it added.

Salonga and Arreza have admitted that while they have a lot of ground to cover, they are ready to work together in the spirit of Executive Order No. 340 which defines their respective powers, functions and duties as chair of the board and as administrator and chief executive officer of the SBMA.

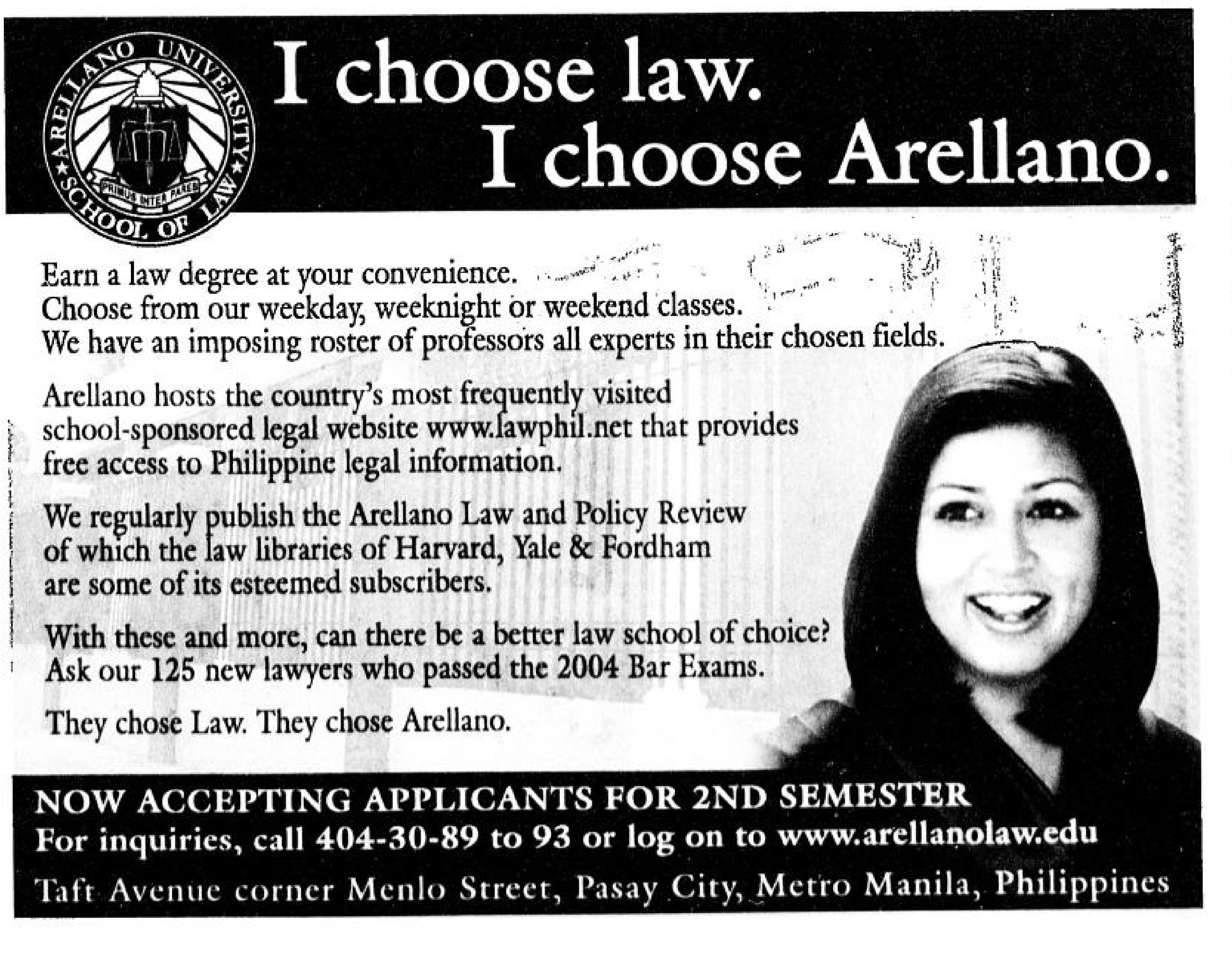
"It is our mandate to continue the initiatives already set forth by our predecessors," the two officials said.

Salonga and Arreza are the fourth men to be assigned at the helm of the SBMA after Sen. Richard Gordon (1992 -1998), Felicito Payumo (1998-2004) and Francisco Licuanan and Alfredo Antonio (2004-2005).

Salonga and Arreza also agreed to hold office at the office formerly held by Antonio in view of Salonga's desire to be a working chairman, it was also announced.

What used to be the official residence of Antonio will now be reserved as the official residence in Subic of the President of the Philippines just like the White House in Clark, it said.

The office of Arreza denied earlier reports in some tabloids that Rani Cruz, Arreza's executive officer, led a group of armed men from Olongapo to take over the Code 5000 house located at the Kalayaan housing area. *Patrick Roxas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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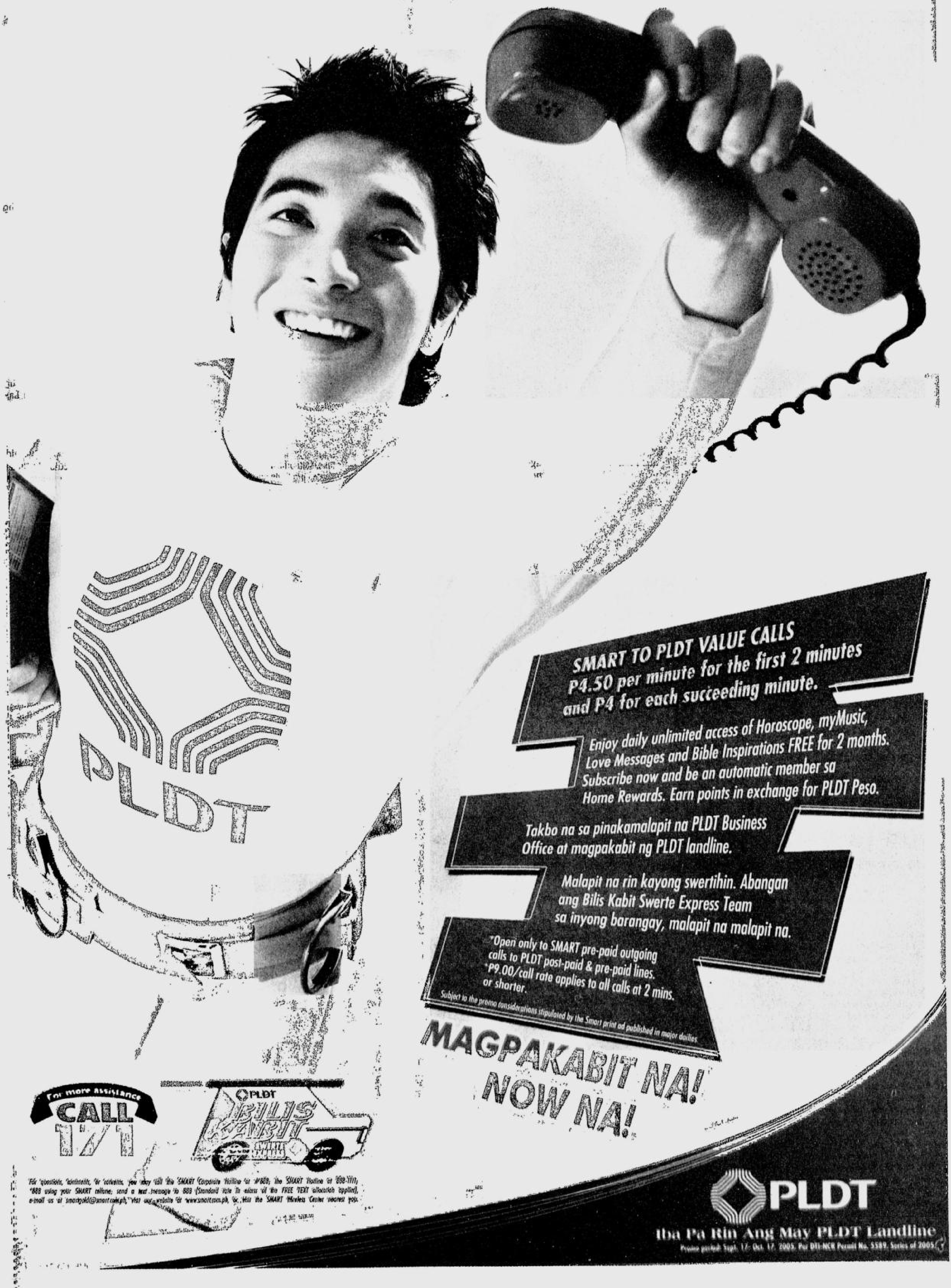

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Edsa bus scheme fails to take off

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DELAYED AGAIN.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) postponed yesterday the initial run of its much publicized bus dispatching scheme after its guest of honor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, abruptly cancelled her attendance at the launch.

Early yesterday morning, the MMDA recalled invitations for media to cover an inspection of the Navotas Organized Bus Route (OBR) Terminal and the scheme's initial run. It had said that Arroyo would grace the 10 a.m. event.

"It was about 8:30 p.m. when we learned that the President could not come," said Cora Cruz, MMDA assistant general manager for planning.

Malacañang did not give any reason for the President's non-appearance, MMDA public affairs officers said.

The agency had spent the entire week rushing preparations for yesterday's launch.

Ms Arroyo was supposed to inspect the Navotas terminal, while MMDA officials would lead the kick-off and partial run of the OBR, a scheme which Malacañang has endorsed as an energy conservation measure.

The President apparently had to attend an urgent meeting at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, where she led a closed-door command conference.

Partial implementation

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, in an interview on Wednesday, said that the launch would entail the partial implementation of the OBR involving 30 percent of Metro Manila's more than 3,000 buses. With yesterday's postponement, free-for-all dispatch for buses will continue until further notice.

Already long delayed, the OBR was conceived to ease traffic along Edsa by controlling the dispatch of buses based on commuter demand. It has been nearly two years since it was first road tested.

"The chairman (Fernando) wants us to complete the tagging of the buses first so that we could proceed to full implementation. It might take us another week," said Mon Santiago, head of the MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System.

He was referring to the distribution of OBR tags, which would allow buses to take part in the scheme and enter MMDA terminals in Metro Manila. Once the OBR is operational, only tagged buses would be allowed to ply their routes.

Tagging is set to take place at the OBR terminals in Fairview, Alabang, and Baclaran.

In the meantime, preparations continued to ensure a smooth implementation of the OBR.

Santiago, who supervised bus depot preparations, said selected buses were dispatched from the Navotas terminal and timed to determine the average travel time through the route.

The agency has yet to finish its commuter survey to determine when to dispatch or control the number of buses on Edsa.

STRAWBERRY

Strawberry slay suspects no shows in court

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THREE MEN ACCUSED IN THE killing of former child actress Strawberry failed to show up yesterday at the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court. Despite the absence of Reynaldo Picar and his sons Ronald and Mark Ryan, who had been charged with homicide, defense lawyer Felipe Capulong asked Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray if they could proceed with the case.

Guray turned down the request, and told the lawyer to bring his three clients "at exactly 9.am. on Oct. 3." Capulong said he was told Reynaldo had suffered a heart attack last week.

The Picars were accused of killing Strawberry, Anouk Baldo in real life, on Dec. 18, 2001 after a minor traffic altercation at the BF Executive Village gate in Las Piñas City. Strawberry, then 25, sustained three gunshot wounds in the head and slipped into a coma for two days before she died. The victim's aunt, Aida Sy, said the case had dragged on because of several postponements and "delaying tactics" on the part of the accused.

Slain trader's kin seek answers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE MOTIVE IN THE killing of a young businessman two weeks ago in Galas, Quezon City remains a puzzle to the victim's family and friends.

Edman Sy, a 23-year-old used-car dealer was allegedly shot by Don Louie Manalo Leaño inside a house on Data St. Barangay Don Manuel.

"Edman's family and friends were shocked when they learned what happened to him," said Meann Dy a spokesperson for the family.

Dy, who described Edman as "a peaceful and mild mannered man," said friends could not imagine why anyone would want to kill him.

Leaño, was charged with homicide and was released from police custody after posting bail on Sept. 20, Dy said.

A hold departure order for Leaño had been secured by the Sys who added they had no information if the suspect was still in the country.

"We appeal to those who may have information on the circumstances surrounding the killing to help us," Dy said.

Police said the victim was shot twice in the back with a .38 caliber revolver between 11:50 and 12:10 p.m. on Sept. 16.

The house where the killing reportedly took place was owned by the suspect's parents, Efren and Rhodora, both directors at the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Sys said they were also wondering why the suspect was only charged with homicide and not murder when "circumstances showed that the victim sustained two gunshot wounds in the back."

METROBRIEFS

A day for pets in Manila

HUNDREDS of animal lovers are expected to troop to the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard today and have their pets blessed to mark World Animal Day and the feast of St. Francis de Assisi, the patron of animals and the environment. The blessing will be at the Raja Sulayman Park. Traffic authorities said the northbound lane of Roxas Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic starting 6 a.m. Northbound vehicles may turn right to Quirino Avenue, all the way to Taft Avenue to the point of destination. Apart from the blessing of animals, a fun run will also be held. *Tina G. Santos*

GMA talents in mishap

A *SIOMAI* (dimsum) vendor was killed when the car driven by a talent of GMA 7 smashed into his trike in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning. Eduardo Brazil, 49, was sleeping inside the trike when the yellow Honda Civic driven by John Andrew Schimmer, 19, slammed into it. SPO2 Romulo Rosagazo said it was about 12:30 a.m. when Schimmer, who had appeared on several GMA 7 programs, sped on the westbound lane of Shaw Boulevard with fellow talent Jake Cuenca, a regular on GMA's "Encantadia." Schimmer reportedly tried to overtake a passenger jeepney but lost control of the wheel. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Fake PRC man nabbed

DAPAT DYAN—IPAKAIN SA PATING! AARGH!

BEWARE of conmen pretending to be government employees. The National Bureau of Investigation arrested on Thursday a man who defrauded a seaman of thousands of pesos four years ago while claiming to be an employee of the Professional Regulation Commission. Marlon Castro, of 298 C. Arellano St., Malabon City, reportedly took P90,000 from Edgardo Poblador, a seaman who wanted to get a chief engineer's professional license. The license that Castro gave Poblador turned out to be fake, said officials of the NBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division. Poblador recently saw Castro in a mall and had him arrested *Margaux C. Ortiz*

CHR's 'no permit, no rally' stand

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE CRITICISM AGAINST Executive Order 464 forbidding officials in the executive department of government to attend congressional hearings is valid.

As constitutional expert Joaquin Bernas said, "It's a gag rule. President Macapagal-Arroyo is obstructing the work of the legislature. She is blocking the checks and balances function among coequal branches of government."

The order was a knee-jerk reaction to the disrespect accorded by some senators toward National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales during a Senate investigation into the Venable contract. At one point during the hearing, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel called Gonzales a "pimp." The Senate should have given the Cabinet official a little more respect.

Gonzales is President Macapagal-Arroyo's alter ego on national security. The President probably thought that the disrespect shown Gonzales was also disrespect for her office. Tit-for-tat, that's what E.O. 464 is all about.

* * *

The Senate and the House of Representatives have been so embroiled in investigating alleged irregularities in the executive branch it has forgotten its primary function—to pass laws. Congressional investigations are made ostensibly in aid of legislation, or to help senators and congressmen craft laws intelligently. But that's baloney, given the penchant of most legislators to grandstand in front of the TV cameras. The Visayans have a term for it: "*hilas*."

The real motive of many legislators in conducting probes is maximum media exposure or "in aid of reelection." Tell me, what congressional investigation has resulted in the passing of a law that benefits the citizenry?

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has criticized the government's "no permit, no rally" policy. It said the policy has no legal basis, citing provisions in the Constitution and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people to assemble peacefully and petition the government for redress and grievances"—Article III, Section 4, 1987 Constitution.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association."—Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Philippine National Police should heed the CHR's advice.

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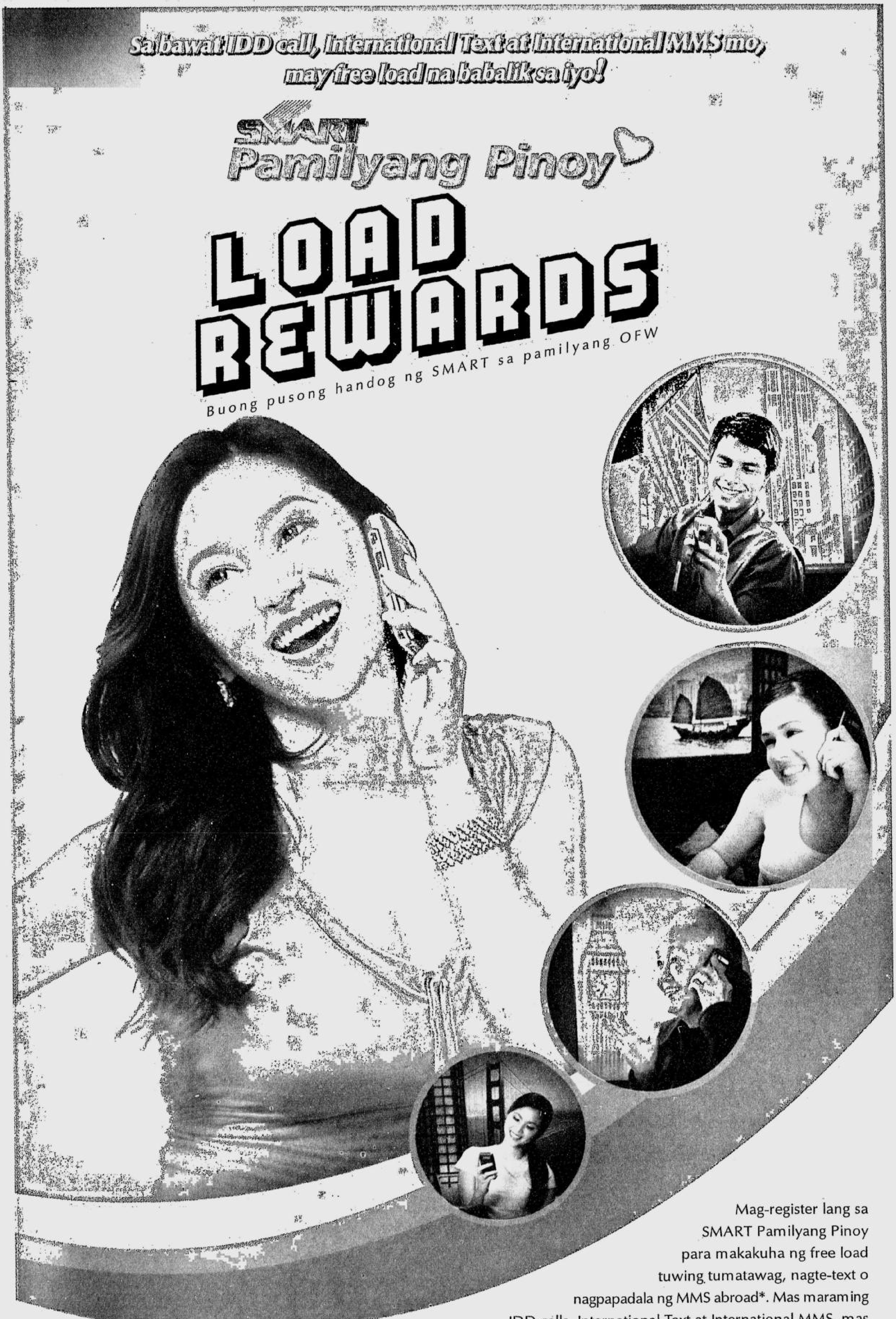
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UAAP bans La Salle official for life

Unanimous decision on Archers' assistant manager who hit Santos in the nape

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP BOARD CAME DOWN HARD ON ERRING LA Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado, banning him from the league—for life—for assaulting Far Eastern U superstar Arwind Santos after Thursday's Game 1 of the UAAP finals.

"After due deliberation [yesterday] the UAAP board of trustees... decided to perpetually ban Mr. Manny Salgado from personally watching all UAAP sports competitions in all the venues thereof," the board statement said. "This decision shall take effect immediately."

The board reached the unanimous decision *en banc* during an emergency meeting yesterday.

"The board condemns in the strongest term possible the actuations and conduct of Mr. Salgado in hitting [Santos]," the statement also read.

"That's [the board's] prerogative," Salgado said after learning of his punishment. "They can do that. But I think that's too harsh. Not being able to sit on the bench, I can take. But not being able to watch the games anymore is something else.

"I don't think I'm a criminal."

But Anton Montinola, FEU's board representative, said Santos did not also deserve getting assaulted by Salgado.

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SALGADO: I am not a criminal.

"Arwind is not a dirty player," Montinola said. "He did not deserve that kind of action."

Santos did not comment on the issue but Edgar Tan, who works for a group that manages the player's career, said the 6-foot-4 forward was "hurt by what [Salgado] did.

"He did not expect it coming from someone who is from La Salle, especially someone who had just earlier shaken his hand," Tan said. "But we do not have any plan of action against [Salgado]."

Salgado said he had acted on impulse when he hit Santos in the nape.

"I apologize to the FEU and La Salle communities, to the UAAP board and the fans," said Salgado. "I was trying to pacify (Joseph) Yeo and Santos. Santos uttered a slanderous remark directed to me, so it was a burst of emotion. Still, it's no excuse. My actions were uncalled for and I accept that."

In a separate statement, La Salle president Bro. Armin Luistro, executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco and sports development director Bro. Roberto Casingal said that Salgado had already "voluntarily withdrawn from the team."

"We certainly will not condone any such act," the statement said. "The incident does not reflect the values we stand for as an educational institution."

Salgado's unsportsmanlike act took place after Santos rescued the Tamaraws from near-defeat, burying a game-tying triple and the deciding putback that gave FEU a 75-73 victory in Game 1 of their championship battle against defending champion La Salle.

Santos and Yeo were jawing at each other even until after the final buzzer when Salgado suddenly rushed to the court as if to intervene. Instead, he hit an unsuspecting Santos hard at the back of the head and fled. The incident was caught on television.

"When we lost to them last year, we accepted it," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "They should also accept their loss."

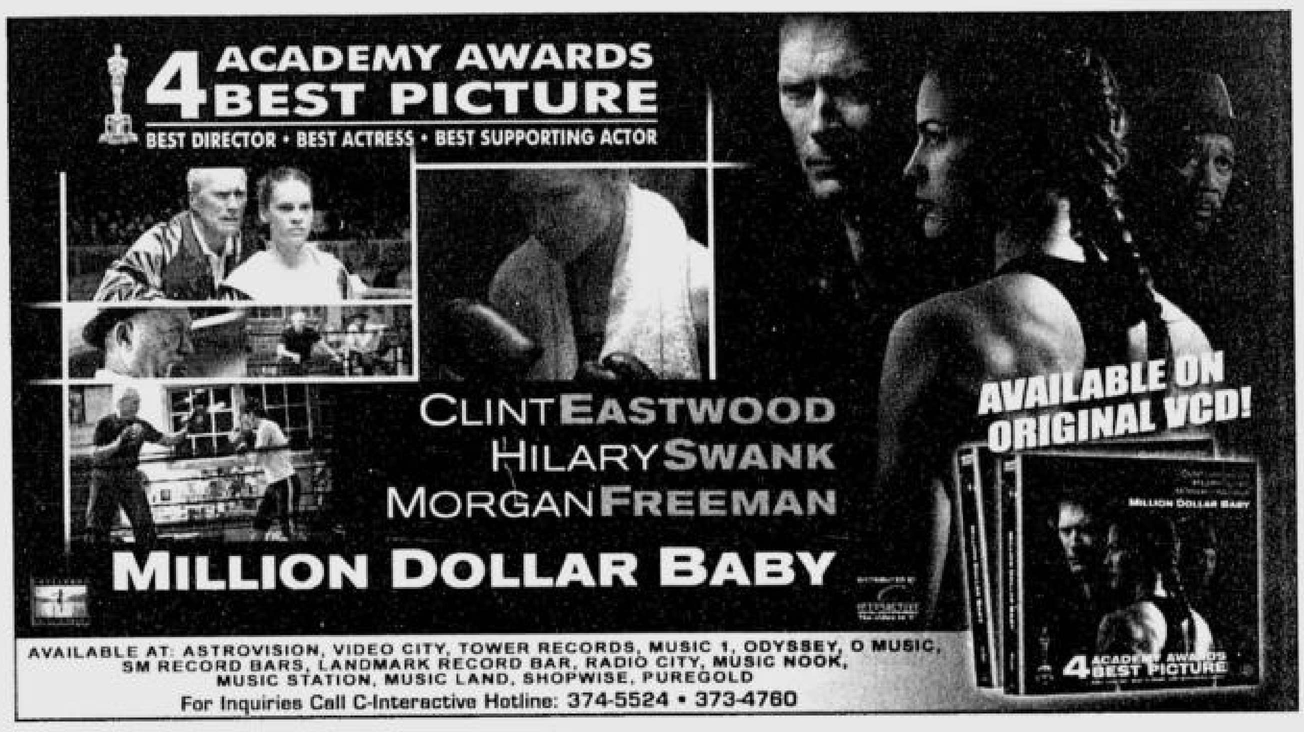
Bearing it in Bacolod

57
days to go before the
23rd SEA Games

BACOLOD CITY—Because this city only has a combined total of a little more than 1,000 hotel rooms, friends and families of athletes vying in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games as well as other tourists will be diverted to neighboring Silay and Talisay towns and to as far as Iloilo for billeting. "We have room as far as the athletes are concerned," Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia said. Leonardia's office is trying to arrange for special two-way ferry trips to Iloilo during the Games here, where men's football kicks off hostilities at the Paglaum and Panaad pitches, a few days before the official opening ceremonies are held at the Rizal Park in Manila on Nov. 27.

* * *

Though one of the most progressive provinces in the South, Bacolod still has one of the smallest, "low-tech" airports in the country. A slight improvement was put in place, though, after airport authorities finally put the old, 25-foot, straight-up contraption they called a "conveyor" out of its miseries. Airport personnel were supposed to install a new one at the arrival section last Tuesday. Delegates from 10 countries will be coming over to see action in five events which the province is hosting from Nov. 27-Dec. 5. *Musong R. Castillo*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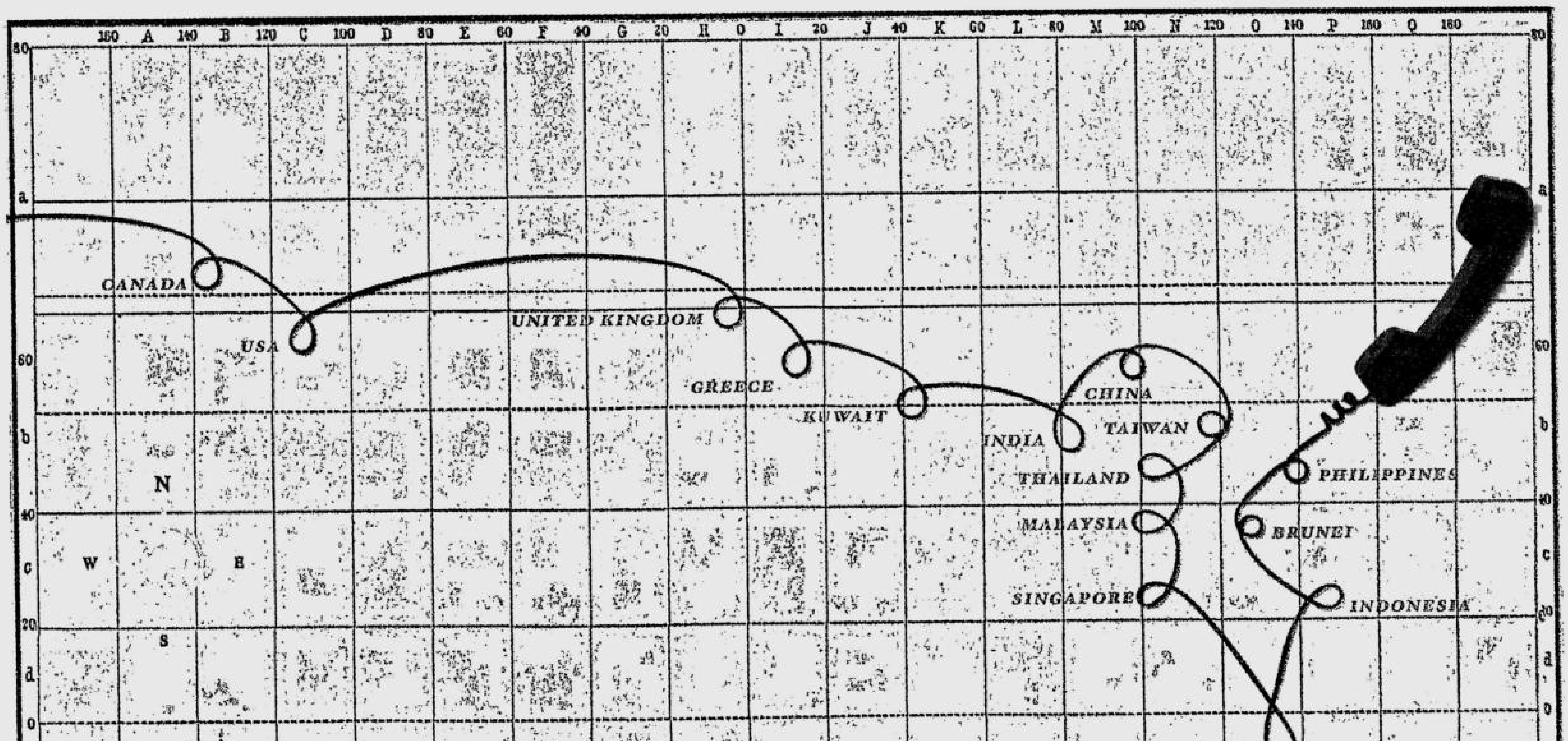

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RP AMATEURS

Steady Bondad cops women's title

By Musong R. Castillo

BONDAD: Never rattled

BACOLOD CITY—DIGGING DEEP INto her experience and refusing to be rattled, Frances Bondad came back from a hole down going into the 15th yesterday to nip up-and-coming Mia Piccio, 2-and-1, for the women's Philippine Amateur golf championship.

The 17-year-old Bondad, who will banner Team Philippines in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, closed out her match with the chubby 13-year-old by going par-birdie-par from the 15th for her second national championship in two years.

"I just told myself that I did not want to lose," Bondad, also the stroke play RP Ladies' Open winner last year, said. "It was a great match and the win boosted my confidence for the SEA Games."

A good-sized crowd braved the scorching afternoon heat and followed the match at the short but tough Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club here, rooting for the hometown bet Piccio, who went 1-up on the 13th after a birdie.

Piccio seemed poised to claiming a second grizzled player for the day, just hours after showing top seed and former RP Ladies' Open winner Carmelette Villaroman the door, 1-up, in the morning.

The sophomore high school student at a local Chinese school here was playing with the form and confidence of a pro, erasing a 1-down deficit after nine holes with a clutch par 4 on No. 11 before taking that 1-up lead with a birdie on the 135-yard par-3 13th.

"It was the toughest match I played this week," said Bondad, who reached the finals by taking out Lora Roberto, 3-and-2 in the morning.

The women's event was held for the first time since the National Golf Association of the Philippines first held a national championship in 1961. It was backed by ICTSI, San Miguel Corp., Petron Blaze, Hanjin Group, Aboitiz, the Department of Tourism, PCSO and Philippine Airlines.

Roberto went on to bag third place, defeating Villaroman, 2-and-1.

Juvic nears 'grand slam'

BACOLOD CITY—JUVIC PAGUNSAN calls the Philippine Amateur Golf Championship the one jewel to complete his personal Grand Slam.

"I've won almost everything there is to win," Pagunsan told the INQUIRER in Filipino yesterday, moments after arranging an interesting 36-hole finals duel with Malaysian Siva Chandhran for the only title missing in his list of accomplishments.

"This is a big thing for me, definitely, especially since I will be playing a foreigner for the title," added the RP ace, who took out local boy JR Tanpinco in a gripping semifinal, 2-and-1, at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club here.

Siva, the Malaysian No. 2, conquered National Caddies' Open bet Mario Labajo, 4-and-3, in the other semifinal, a match he won after going two-under in a three-hole stretch from No. 13. *Musong Castillo*

SIVA: In Juvic Pagunsan's way

POC gets Fiba blessing

World body pushes for formation of new cage body

By Francis Ochoa

FINALLY, JOSE "PEPING" COJUANGCO'S EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW BASKETball federation has borne fruit. And if the stakeholders move fast enough, the Philippines' stint in the coming Southeast Asian Games could yet be salvaged.

Cojuangco, the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the international basketball federation (Fiba) that, among others, will allow the POC to spearhead the formation of a new and unified basketball federation in the country.

"The agreement leaves the door open for the staging of [the] basketball [competitions] during the Southeast Asian Games," said Cojuangco, who was due to arrive late last night.

"There is severe time constraint, but the prospects are there. It now depends heavily on how our stakeholders will respond to this opportunity."

The signatories to the agreement, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER from a Fiba source, were Cojuangco, POC chair Robert Aventajado and Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann.

It effectively calls for a new federation to replace the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) with one which will involve all the sport's major stakeholders.

The agreement stated that the Fiba "will continue recognizing the BAP as a suspended member of the Fiba for the time being," and that the country remains suspended until a new federation is formed.

The MOA also stipulates that the new federation "must include" at least the five major stakeholders of the sport: the PBA, UAAP, NCAA, PBL and Joey Lina, president of the BAP.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Lina refused to comment on the MOA saying, "I have not studied it carefully yet."

BAP vice president Lito Alvarez said he has heard about the memorandum, but refused to comment on behalf of the BAP.

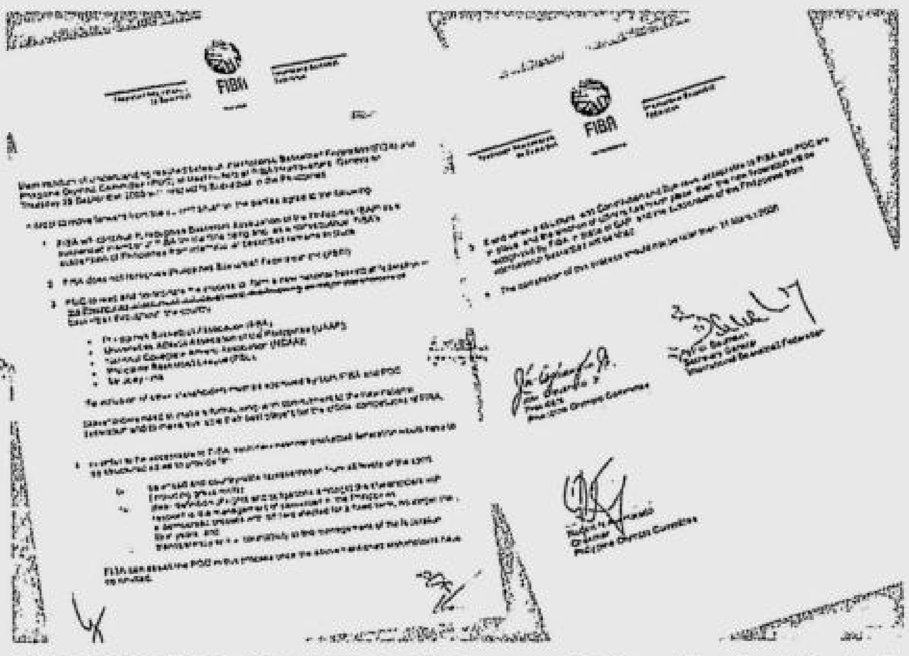
"Although, personally, for me, anything that puts an end to this crisis should be good," said Alvarez.

The agreement also states that the inclusion of stakeholders must be approved by both the Fiba and the POC.

The stakeholders must also make available its best players for Fiba-sanctioned tournaments—a point that Cojuangco had stressed as POC chief in an effort to guarantee the best representation for the country in international tournaments.

The agreement also states that the deadline for the completion of the conditions set for the lifting of the sanction should be no later than Mar. 31 next year.

That means that if the stakeholders move fast enough and avoid further complications, the new federation may be formed in time to have the suspension lifted before the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 SEAG.



THE SIGNATURES of the Fiba's Patrick Baumann, POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and POC chair Robert Aventajado are affixed on the agreement.

Cojuangco said, though, that while a no-basketball SEAG still looms, there should be little cause for alarm since the agreement ensures a long-term solution for Philippine basketball.

Cojuangco personally headed a three-man team to the Fiba headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to put a finality to the raging issue. With him were Aventajado and POC legal counsel Ding Tanjuatco.

The FIBA team was led by Baumann and included international relations and development manager Zoran Radovic and legal mind Kenneth Madsen. The POC team was accompanied by first secretary Miguel Bautista of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations.

"There was clearly a meeting of the minds," Aventajado said. "We approached FIBA with an open mind and the result is certainly acceptable to [us].

PBA cracks whip on Miller, 6 others for absence

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOciation will fine seven players for snubbing the players' orientation held Wednesday at the Moro Lorenzo Gym.

Barangay Ginebra's Mark Caguioa, Jayjay Helterbrand, Rodney Santos, Kalani Ferreria, Billy Mamaril of Coca-Cola, Alaska's Bong Hawkins and Willie Miller of Talk 'N Text are facing sanctions for failing to justify their absences.

"It's a must-attend function for all the players so I don't see any reason why the league should not penalize them," said PBA technical chief Perry Martinez.

A PBA source said the players would be fined P1,500-P2,000 each by the league apart from the penalty that they stand to incur from their teams.

During the orientation, Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text asked the league to lift its ban on the "pro-grip," a sticky substance applied on the fingertips for better ball handling.

"Or at least lower the fine on pro-grip users," said Taulava, a frequent violator of the league's no-pro-grip rule.

The Fiba has outlawed the use of the substance in international tournaments. The PBA, which opens shop tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum, has prohibited its use since 2003.

First-time offenders will be fined P1,000, second-time users P2,000 and third-time violators P3,000 while frequent rule-breakers get a temporary suspension and a P6,000 penalty.

A fine will also be slapped on Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen for an "irresponsible" remark on the hiring of imports.

Tanquingcen has been quoted as saying the failure of some teams to get quality imports should be blamed on the league.

Espiritu cup finals today

IT WILL be an all-Cavite finals in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament today at the Washington gym in Makati City. San Sebastian College Recoletos-Cavite tries to defend the title against Far Eastern Insurance-Cavite in the 7 p.m. contest. Boy Bawang and playing team manager Mike Dulla's Mediatrix Telecoms will dispute third place earlier at 5 p.m. Individual awards will be given before the championship. Mythical Five members will also be named. Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar's FEI-Cavite pins its hopes on Marvin Ortiguerra, Arnold Booker and Jay-Ar Estrada. FEI-Cavite beat the SSCR-Cavite Stags, 68-65, in the eliminations of the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Spring Cooking Oil, Gen. Milling Corp., Funtastic KTV and Bar and Prime Channel.

Luzon, Visayas stars shine brightest

VALENCIA CITY—THE LUZON/VISAyas All-Stars completed a two-game sweep of their Mindanao counterparts with a 96-91 victory Thursday in the 2005 National Basketball Conference All-Stars at the city gym.

Mindanao was ahead, 49-48, at the turn, but the Luz/Vi cagers grabbed the upper hand in the final half behind the steady quarterbacking of Marlon Kalaw, Maui Huelar and Ronald Bucao.

Kalaw and Huelar dished out nine assists apiece while Bucao had eight and also tallied four straight points midway through the payoff period when Mindanao threatened at 82-70.

Valencia's Julius Navales, Nat Cruz and Eliazar Berami sparked Mindanao's rally, which was doused by Bucao and Tribu Sugbu player Marvin Mercado.

Ozamiz's Melfred Sampilo fired six straight points as Mindanao made its last big stand at 90-85. Kalaw and Alex Bognot of the Parañaque Jets preserved Luz/Vi's win with clutch hits in the closing minutes.

Bognot emerged as the All-Stars' most valuable player.

The Luz/Vi cagers took the first game at Iligan, 96-87.

Kalaw ruled the 3-point shoot-out here, nipping Julius Navales, 15 to 14. Mercado beat Arnold Booker in the slamdunk finals, 30-15.

The scores:

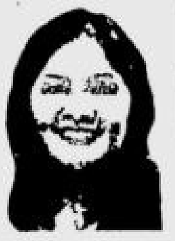
LUZON/VISAYAS 96—Bognot 17, Mercado 17, Booker 12, Alminario 11, Bucao 8, Allado 8, Almacin 7, Guerrero 7, Kalaw 4, Guiyab 2, Huelar 2

MINDANAO 91—Sampilo 23, Isidro 18, Berami 8, Getubig 7, Nicdao 6, Ramos 6, Navales 6, Bansil 4, Cruz 4, Adams 4, Dumapig 4, Delina 0, Nailon 0

Quarters: 24-26, 48-49, 77-72, 96-91.

Jimmy, Asi jersey replica sold in Taipei

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

TALK 'N TEXT CAGER Jimmy Alapag was both pleased and puzzled when a group of Pinoy fans in Taipei approached him for his autograph. He was surprised because the fans wanted his autograph written on a replica of his jersey which they had bought.

Jimmy wondered who had sold the jerseys. Could it be somebody from the TNT coaching staff? Earlier, he had noticed a big box being brought into the venue by the utility boys on the order of this official. The boys said it contained uniform jerseys of Jimmy and Asi Taulava.

Over the weekend, Princess Galura of PBA Properties received a letter of complaint from Sheryl Reyes, Jimmy's sponsorship agent, reporting the unauthorized sale of the jerseys. Sheryl copy-furnished PBA commissioner Noli Eala and TNT officials.

"Technically, there's nothing illegal about the sale," Sheryl said. "The point is, this assistant coach did it without *delicadeza* and in utter disrespect of Jimmy and Asi who were not even given the courtesy of being informed of his business plan.

And the way the jerseys were being peddled, *nakakahiya. Parang palengke. Meron pang* hawkers."

Confronted, the enterprising jersey entrepreneur explained that he direly needed additional revenue because his food business was going sour and his marriage was on the rocks. He practically begged for mercy and forgiveness from Jimmy and Sheryl, who meets with Eala on Monday.

I wonder what Asi has to say about all these.

* * *

All the PBA players were expected to be at the Baywalk last night for a preseason *pakulo*. Fans will be given the rare opportunity of laughing, dancing, and hobnobbing with their PBA idols.

The cagers are all required to attend the affair and those who fail to do so face sanction. Fines, most likely.

Last Wednesday, the PBA scheduled a players' orientation seminar from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Social Development Complex of the Ateneo in Loyola Heights.

While attendance was far from perfect, it wasn't that bad either.

"*Maganda naman ang umpisa. Mas marami ang* present *kaysa absent. But as the day wore on, unti-unting nawawala ang mga* players. We recorded *naman* who attended, stayed, left and what time," related a PBA insider, who said they did not want a repeat of this in last night's Baywalk socials.

There's been a series of activities leading to the opening of the 2005-2006 season tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The first to be feted by Noli Eala on Sept. 24 at the Skyline Vivere Suites in Alabang were the members of the board and the team owners, who included the Cojuangcos and Ramon Ang of San Miguel, Manny Pangilinan of Talk and Text, George Chua of Red Bull, Sta. Lucia's Exi Robles, Alaska's Fred Uytengsu and Bert Lina of Fedex.

While most of the governors graced the occasion, none of the owners showed up. Although I got it from good source that most of them had confirmed their attendance.

* * *

Huddle reader Joshua Brimel shares an interesting observation.

"Have you noticed that in at least three basketball leagues, the protagonists in the finals were champions of the 2003 and 2004 seasons. In the NBA, it was 2003 titlist San Antonio Spurs who prevailed over 2004 champ Detroit Pistons. In the recently concluded NCAA cage wars, 2003 winner Letran conquered 2004 titlist PCU. The trend continued in the ongoing UAAP with FEU and La Salle, 2003 and 2004 champs, respectively, in contention."

Joshua pointed out that in the NBA and the NCAA, the 2003 champs triumphed this season.

* * *

Speaking of the UAAP, a sports editor is upset and furious over the board's decision to impose a lifetime ban on La Salle's Manny Salgado who hit Tamaraw Arwind Santos in the nape during Game 1 of the La Salle-FEU finals series.

"He's banned not only from basketball but the other UAAP sports as well. *Masyado namang* harsh *'yon*, considering that he had already apologized publicly and explained the reason for his behavior," the editor said.

InqBox Question of the Week
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Reyes-Manalo rules US pool pairs

REYES

NEW YORK, NEW YORK—FILIPINOS EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Marlon Manalo bagged the last seven racks to beat the pair of countryman Santos Sambajon and New Yorker Tony Robles, 11-5, Wednesday night in the 2005 New York City exhibition tandem match at the Amsterdam Billiard Hall here.

The championship victory was worth $5,000 for Reyes and Manalo.

Sambajon and Robles failed to sustain a 4-0 lead and settled for the second prize of $2,500.

"We got lucky," said Manalo in Filipino.

It was a big recovery for Reyes, who bowed out of the title race in the US Open 9-ball championships in Chesapeake, Virginia, recently. The event was won by Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan at the expense of US-based Filipino Jose "Amang" Parica, who ousted Reyes in the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the week, Reyes started his recovery by trouncing Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 15-8, in a $9,000 winner-take all duel in New Jersey. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

RP's Basco stuns Aussie top seed

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEVENTH SEED MICHAEL BASCO YIELDED four of the first six games but came charging back to stun top seed William McNamee of Australia yesterday and seize a semifinal berth in the second leg of the Phinma-ITF junior tennis championships.

The 17-year-old Basco worked behind a strong service game and stealy nerves to take 10 of the last 11 games for a 6-4, 6-1 humiliation of the heavily favored Australian at the Ynares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig.

Basco's surprise win duplicated the feat compatriot Pablo Olivarez II who also eliminated McNamee in the semifinals of the world-ranking tournament's first leg last week at the same venue.

"I guess I was more mentally prepared than (McNamee)," said Basco, who fell by the wayside in the second round last week. "I refused to change my gameplan despite his lead in the first set."

Basco didn't blink despite McNamee's steady, aggressive play that gave the Australian a 4-2 lead in the first set.

McNamee said Basco forced him to play "extra ball" and took him out of his comfort zone all match long.

Basco's 75-minute victory—sealed with an ace—lined him up in the semifinals against third seed and last year's runner-up Nico Riego de Dios, who ousted Chinese Taipei's Chang Yu-chi, 6-0, 7-6 (3).

De Dios, ranked 536th in the world, is keen on giving Basco a good fight today.

"It will be a tough match," De Dedios predicted. "Nico is patient and hardly makes errors."

The semifinal duel will showcase the products of two of the best tennis schools in the country.

Basco is a product of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Team under former RP Davis Cupper Beeyong Sison, while De Dios comes from the Southwoods Tennis Academy of another former Cupper Manny Tecson.

In the other end of the draw, second seed Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez easily defeated Indonesian Lenz Theodor, 6-2, 6-1, to gain a final four match opposite Japan's Toshiya Suzuki, who overcame unranked Filipino Francis Casey Alcantara, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Unseeded Filipino Noelle Nikki Zoleta provided the drama in girls' play, scoring a shock 6-4, 6-4 win over elder sister Noelle Conchita.

Zoleta marched into the semifinals against No. 7 Stephanie Vogt of Liechtenstein who rallied past Miao Yuilyn of Taiwan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Second seed and first leg runner-up Kathrina Negrin of Austria also booked her ticket to the next round via a resounding 6-0, 6-0 rout of Taiwanese Chen Mu Ying.

TOURNAMENT favorite William McNamee smashes a lob by Michael Basco in the third game of the first set. The Filipino rallied to shock the top seeded McNamee. RYAN LIM

Rotary Asian golf set in Shanghai

THE 10TH ASIAN TOURNAMENT OF THE Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (RGFFP) returns to Shanghai on Nov. 8-12.

RGFFP officials are discussing with HSBC officials the possibility of dovetailing the annual event with the HSBC Champions' Tournament in Shanghai.

The HSBC tourney is scheduled Nov. 10-13 with Tiger Woods and 20 of the best players in the world rankings participating. The RGFFP Shanghai golf package includes a chance to watch Tiger Woods in action.

Defending individual champions are Michael Tang of RC Bagumbayan, class A; Chito Reyes of RC Lipa South, class B; and Raul Molintas of RC Baguio, class C, while Rotary Club of Lipa South/Molo-Iloilo is defending team titlist.

Last year's tourney was participated by members and guests from RC Bacolod-Marapara, RC Bagumbayan, RC Baguio, RC General Santos, RC Matina-Davao, RC Jaro-Iloilo, RC Lipa South, RC Makati North, RC Makati Southwest, RC Makati West, RC Molo-Iloilo, RC Quezon City, RC San Juanico, RC Pasig, RC Tacloban and RC Iloilo City.

Golf Holidays will again handle travel arrangements. For bookings, call 522-1495, 522-4089, or e-mail golfholidays@execres.com.ph.

For inquiries, call Pauline Sevilla (0920-9199000) or Leah Grubat (0920-9087635) or the RGFFP secretariat at 7212667 local 110.

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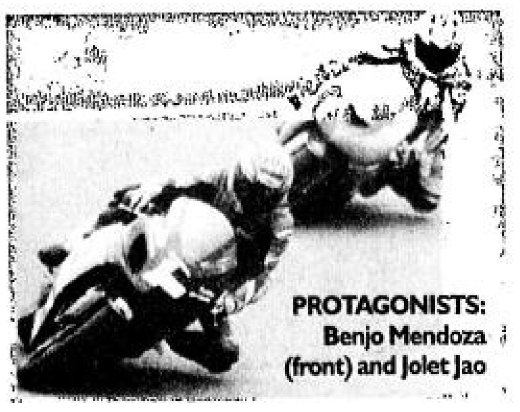

PROTAGONISTS: Benjo Mendoza (front) and Jolet Jao

Jao, Mendoza dispute Superbikes crown

THE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWDOWN between defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advanced-Kawasaki and arch rival Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex comes to an exciting climax today in the final races of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Jao, who is eyeing his ninth Superbikes plum, leads the overall race with 221 points in this series sanctioned by the National Motorcycles Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Kilton Motors, Yokohama and Denso.

But at the rate he is going, the young Mendoza could still pull the rug from under Jao down the wire.

Mendoza won four of the past 10 races, hiking his total to 198 points, or just 23 behind Jao. He had the chance to wrest the crown from Jao last year but fell short in the last two rounds and he settled for runner-up honors.

Roderick Chua is third overall with 150 points, with Randy Ortiza fourth with 128 points and Wacky del Rosario fifth with 114.

Another event today expected to be as action-packed as the Superbikes races is the Road Racing Championship where more than 30 riders are vying for top honors.

Current leader Renan Morales seeks another victory but expects tough challenge from closest rivals Hubert Soriano and Jay Cortez in the Superbikes category.

Hawks gun for Naascu title vs STI

INQUIRER, CHAMP: Players and team officials of the Philippine Daily Inquirer celebrate their victory in Division II of the SMC Media Invitational Basketball Tournament recently after beating runner-up Manila Bulletin, 81-66. Deadline-beaters from 16 print and broadcast media organizations saw action in the goodwill tournament sponsored each year by San Miguel Corp. INQUIRER chief photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento (third from left) receives the championship trophy from SMC assistant vice president Robert M. Non (center) and media relations manager Jane Llanes-Francisco (fourth from left).

BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN HITCHES, THE MIGHTY UNIVERSITY of Manila Hawks are expected to claim their rightful place in national collegiate basketball history.

The once-beaten defending champions will take on pretender STI at 3 p.m. today, eyeing a fifth straight title in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym.

A win would catapult the Hawks among the ranks of multiple consecutive champions that include the University of the East Warriors and the University of Santo Tomas Tigers. UE owns a string of seven titles and UST four in the UAAP.

"A record [86-straight win] is safe and we are not stopping until we win our next title in Naascu," said UM president lawyer Ernesto de los Santos of the Hawks' five-year-long victory streak that was snapped only in the eliminations by the St. Clare Saints.

"These milestones make the league more exciting and we will try to come up with it as much as we could."

The STI Olympians, who barged into their first championship series via double-kill of St. Clare, failed to come up with a decent game and lost to the Hawks, 75-56, in Game 1.

Coach Ato Tolentino's Hawks are expected to lean on Ryan Regalado, Richard Litonjua, Gener Barnados and Onofre Napiza again to snare their fifth crown.

STI, coached by Vic Ycasiano, pins its hopes on the steady plays of Jonathan Belano and George Ebuengga. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Touring Car races resume Oct. 2 at BRC

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TOURING CAR Championships will hold two more races at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, this weekend.

First-leg winners Enzo Pastor and Jody Coseteng again head the star-studded list of entries vying for the Driver of the Year award to be presented by Race Fans Inc. (RFI) in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines at the end of the six-weekend series.

Pastor and Coseteng split top honors in the inaugural races last Sept. 11 that drew a huge weekend crowd, including AAP general manager Mandy Eduque and motorsports legend Pocholo Ramirez.

RFI president Richard Santos said this weekend's races are expected to surpass the excitement generated by the kickoff event.

"The turnout of participants and the public response during our inaugural race weekend are very encouraging," said Santos.

More than 30 drivers saw action in the Sept. 11 races.

Santos said the RFI-organized event is the only legitimate touring car series duly sanctioned by the AAP and the certification issued by Eduque only recently should put to rest the issue as to which car racing competition is the legitimate national series.

"With the AAP certification, we hope the motorsports public and even the sponsors will now be enlightened as to which series will determine the real Driver of the Year," he explained.

The six-weekend series will also be held at the Subic International Raceway later this year.

The PNTCC races are being shown on Slipstream over Sports Plus every Wednesdays.

STANDINGS	W	L
World Citi	8	1
PMI	7	1
PCCr	6	2
MLQU	6	2
CCP	6	2
MMC	4	4
St.Jude	4	5
De Ocampo	3	5
TIP	2	6
Las Piñas	2	6
Trinity	2	7
DLS-Araneta	0	9

Vikings, Admirals sink Cusa rivals

WORLD CITI COLLEGE ADDED METRO Manila College to its list of victims, posting a lopsided 78-59 win in the 11th Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (Cusa) men's basketball tournament at the CCP gym in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The win, World Citi's eighth in nine matches, moved the Vikings of coach Boy Clariño within a win of at least a tie for one of two outright semifinals berths in the 12-team tournament.

Mark Abayan, at 5-foot-9 the smallest man on the court, led the Vikings' balanced attack with a game-high 21 points.

Khasim Mirza and Ryan Espeno backed up Abayan with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Aaron Galapon had 20 points in the Bisons' losing cause.

Defending champion Philippine Maritime Institute struggled to beat Trinity College-Quezon City, 69-63, and strengthen its grip on second place with its seventh win in eight matches.

Former Olympian Orly Bauzon, the league commissioner, said the top two teams after the single-round elimination will advance to the semifinals outright.

The next four teams will dispute the remaining semifinal berths with the No. 3 team taking on the No. 6 squad and the No. 4 team battling the No. 5 squad.

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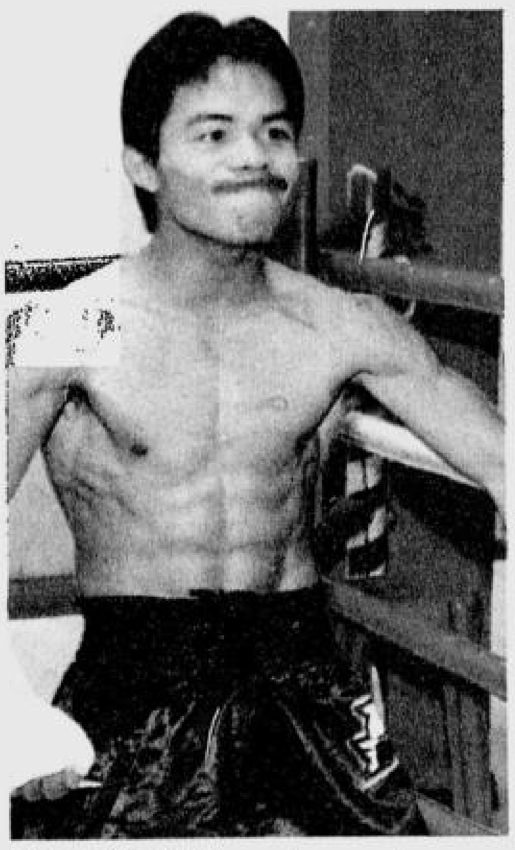


PACQUIAO: The honors keep coming

Pacquiao, fellow RP ring stars get honor

MANNY PACQUIAO, BRIAN VILORIA AND Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista—the 1-2-3 punch of Philippine boxing—will be honored in a VIP dinner dubbed as "Tagumpay" Tribute to the Champions Monday at the Crowne Plaza Ballroom in Ortigas.

The trilogy of tributes will start at 7 p.m., featuring musical numbers from the country's hottest bands and solo performers and video clips of the recent fights of the three boxing heroes.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be on hand to give inspirational message and present special citations to the three champions.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will deliver the opening remarks and present the tribute to local sports icon Pacquiao.

Pacquiao starred in the Sept. 11 world boxing event called "Double Trouble" where he demolished rugged Mexican Hector Velazquez in six rounds.

Department of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano will present the tribute to Bautista while Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson will do the honor to Viloria. The Hawaii-based fighter traces his roots in Ilocos Sur.

Bautista and Viloria both scored sensational knockout victories in the undercards of Pacquiao's big night.

The 19-year-old Bautista stopped Felix Flores in the third round to stay undefeated in 16 bouts.

Viloria, aptly called the "Hawaiian Punch," crowned himself as the new World Boxing Council light flyweight king after knocking out champion Eric Ortiz in the first round. The prized fighter brought here by Solar Sports is still unscathed in 19 outings.

Jaca battles Lorona for nat'l crown

JIMREX "DIVINO" JACA GETS ANOTHER crack at a Philippine title when he fights veteran Baby Lorona Jr. for the vacant RP super-featherweight title on Oct. 30 at the PhilSports in Pasig City.

The bout will serve as the chief support to the Gerry Peñalosa-Mbwana Matumla bout.

Matchmaker Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde is putting up the card in a team-up with promoter Mark Roces of Jemah Films.

The RP 130-lb title was vacated by Bobby Pacquiao, who is now campaigning in the United States as the WBC Continental Americas super-featherweight champion.

The younger brother of world boxing star Manny Pacquiao is set to clash with Carlos "Famoso" Hernandez in the US on Oct. 8.

The 22-year-old Jaca (23-1-1, 10 KO's) had previously held the RP and OPBF superbantam titles. He lost the Oriental crown to Japanese Yasuo Kunimi last year after failing to make the weight. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Martinez beats Aussie

MOSCOW, Russia—Mitchel Martinez started the Philippine campaign in the 3rd World Women's Boxing Championships on a bright note by winning on points over Australia's Eric Mcgowan, 39-22, on Wednesday here. Martinez, winner of the 1st and 3rd Asian Championships, dominated the 60-kg fight from beginning to end, landing 1-2 combinations while foiling Mcgowan's attack. Gretchen Abaniel of the Philippines plays Aktop Deria of Turkey Friday. Aktop is a bronze medalist in the European Championships.

The championship that felt like death

Exactly 30 years ago today, a supremely confident Muhammad Ali fails to turn 'Thrilla in Manila' into another day's work

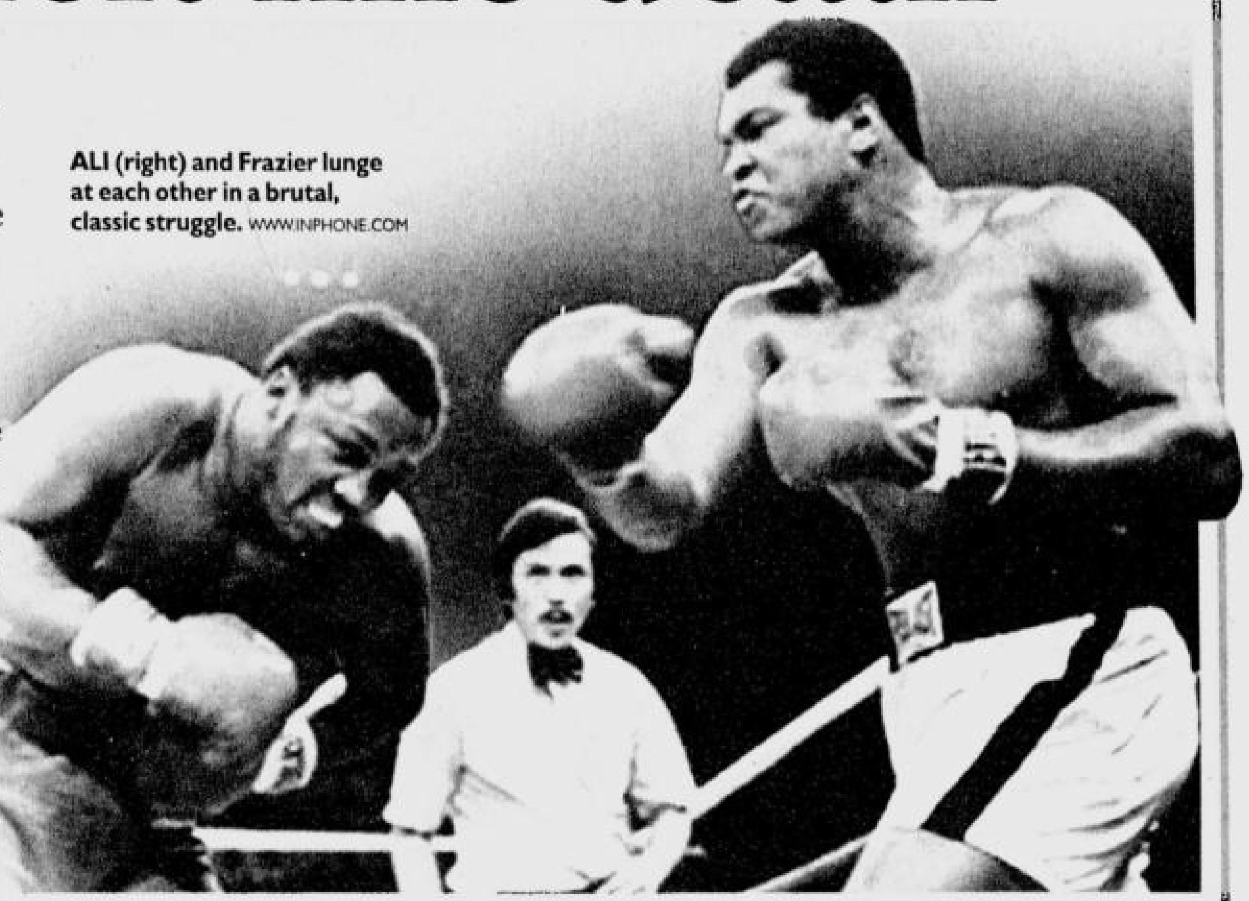
THE CARPETED CORRIDOR LEADING to the Champion's dressing room was a tunnel, dim as a rain-threatened afternoon. It was an exclusive passage, so that there was an unchanging secrecy in the faces of the guards, as if the fate of the world this particular morning was being plotted behind the tightly shut white door.

A man the size of a sumo wrestler stood guard at the door. Only handlers and those in the very exclusive circle could be with Muhammad Ali before the fight. Sixtyish Cassius Clay Sr., the Champion's father, was one of them. He emerged from the white door, momentarily exposing Ali, brown and naked on a long white sofa being soothed by a masseur.

"He's ready," Clay announced nervously, then asked a guard for a light.

"He's stronger than him. He's faster than him. He'll sure knock out Joe," Clay said to reveal what could be the prevailing confidence inside the room.

It was the only strategy Clay had been allowed to divulge. "What he will do in there, it's not my business. What he does, he's gonna be the judge."



ALI (right) and Frazier lunge at each other in a brutal, classic struggle. WWW.INPHONE.COM

Butcher

When Muhammad Ali finally stepped out and entered the ring luminous before the eyes of the world, his face had the worn-out distaste of a butcher before another day's job, evidence of how he had successfully psyched himself up against Joe Frazier, the challenger most capable of wrestling the world title from him.

"Just another day's work," Ali proudly informed the press gallery upon disrobing. "Just another workout, another day's job."

Tough-lunged Bundini Brown, the Champion's faithful friend and handler, did not think so. He appeared like a worried father who had been through several sleepless nights as he helped Angelo Dundee prepare Ali. When referee Carlos Padilla Jr. hailed Ali and his handlers to join the Frazier group for the routine instructions at center ring, Ali strode with the casualness of a seasoned traveler who had waken up in too many rooms in countless different mornings.

The Champion's dignity seemed to explain. Muhammad Ali has traveled that far from the womb.

The bell rings. The restless crowd hushes. Ali, heavy-footed, beats Frazier in the initial race to reach mid-ring. Frazier, bobbing and heaving like an itchy amoeba, meets Ali's simple charge. They circle, feint, arms half-cocked.

Raging with young anticipation, they appear more like two strangers hurrying on separate ways but got accidentally caught in a giant net. They paw repeatedly at the air. From the far-off bleachers the two gladiators appear like a couple of outsized insects in a decisive dispute on who will be conqueror and who will be prey.

Klieg lights

It doesn't look too real at ringside either. From press row, on this covered rattan chair, with the attendant glitter, the klieg lights blinding as stars, one is reduced to a child innocently scouring the skies for the promise of a celestial confrontation.

Just the same, the Ali-Frazier world heavyweight boxing match starts on a human level. Frazier opens up with a left jab, is short with it. Ali tiptoes to the right, then hurls a big right straight that misses the restive target.

Ali, well-informed of his opponent's soft points in the first round, poises for an early kill. Even the champion's mythical nimbleness and grace fail to conceal his murderous appetite. His rhythm is a little off and Bundini cries, "Take your time, champ. Take your time."

Subsequently Frazier ties up Ali in a corner, a situation Bundini and company fear most. Against a boxer of Ali's bulk and reach, Frazier's best region are the corners. Frazier had proven this beyond doubt when he beat Ali in their first match in New York in 1971. Sensing early doom, Ali skips off the danger area then jolts Frazier with a heavy left cross as the challenger charges in. Ali, flat-footed, presses harder. The bell. Frazier taps Ali on the left thigh in acknowledgement as they head for their stools.

The crowd lets out an appreciative roar. Indeed it is not possible for this fight to go the distance. Both combatants are out to destroy and win. And with their strength, skill and fearsome frame of mind, it's not too unwise to assume that the fighters, among the greatest and fiercest in heavyweight history, are capable of bearing godly qualities once they clash in battle.

The referee warns Ali early in the second round for holding, a human frailty. But after this flaw, the fight starts to depart from its earthly province. In the undetermined haze of violence, the Ali-Frazier war looms celestial. Once the fighters collide, it is not unlike the tumult of heavenly bodies clashing. A terrible blow on god's earthen temple.

In all its severity, it's hard to call the duel a mere 15-round title bout.

The fight actually never stops once started. The bell tolls only to bring the combatants back to earth, giving the crowd time to pause and breathe.

For mocking and taunting Frazier to catch him in his corner, Ali gets punished. Frazier sticks it out with Ali from there on, clinging like a curse despite Ali's desperate tows. Time and again the champion poles off the challenger with his bigger, longer left arm, but Frazier resumes the siege like a maddened, murderous bull.

Like a mythological curse, Ali keeps on attracting Frazier—now a punishing, burning mass—with what seems like an invisible magnet in the champion's chest.

Killer punches

Somehow midway in the battle, the ever-charging Frazier starts to feel like death. Ali left-hands him, he right-straights him. The Champion hacks, hammers, clubs, pushes, wrestles, curses back, but the challenger simply roars in. Ali throws what he feels are divinely guided killer punches, but Frazier remains.

The Champion can't explain it. Ali himself has been considered a phenomenon with his ability to reduce, like a charmed being, the impact of each blow he receives by transmitting shock faster than other men. It is considered impossible to knock Ali out because he can assimilate punches faster, transmitting shock through more parts of his body. There is in Ali a permanent unshakeable communication between mind and limb. But now Ali admits Frazier is tougher in this area. Frazier is made of sterner stuff than Ali had thought. "I could have not withstood all those beatings I gave him (Frazier)," Ali would confess after the fight.

His face a bloodied, distorted mask, Frazier nevertheless continues to chase Ali, who often seeks solace in his corner, his head shelled into his arms.

"Don't play with that bum," Bundini starts to cry. But Frazier simply hacks on, causing increased alarm in Ali's camp.

"Push yourself champ," the cry continues." Dance. You got to float like a butterfly. You got to return to your old style."

Dance and float Ali does, but he can't turn off the magnet. Frazier continues to cling and club, cling and club, nabbing Ali with savage blows to the body.

The bell rings. The crowd pauses limp with excitement.

The tiring Ali is still trying to dance away from danger when Bundini finally recites the magic code.

"Fight for God," shouts a tearful Bundini." God, Ali. God."

Trained dog

Ali hears like a trained dog sensing his master's call. The champion's tired eyes suddenly take on the brilliance of stars. The myth in Ali restarts to rouse.

"God, Ali, God," Bundini keeps on crying madly. "God. God."

The coliseum continues to roar. Here Ali decides to dig deeper into his reservoir of power. He reaches into his inner chamber of skill and starts pummeling Frazier with blows as big as the ones in the early rounds. But just the same, Frazier keeps charging. Ali pauses, not leaning but virtually sitting on the ropes to soothe his over-worked legs.

Ali has never expected the fight to go this long. He feels ready to faint, quit. But sometime midway after the 13th bell, Ali catches his foe with a meteor-like right cross to the chin. Frazier stalls from his charge, his mouthpiece sailing past the press section. Deprived of his mouthguard (Frazier's amulet?) the challenger reels with another Ali barrage. A spit of blood sparks from Frazier's punished mouth, moistening the lights. For the first time in the fight he staggers from the blows which send him on an awkward limbless trot. For a while Frazier seems ready to float. But he recovers fleetingly as Ali slips setting for the kill.

Meeting Frazier anew after the 14th bell, Ali spears the challenger with no less than 60 killer blows, 18 of them in a row, but Frazier simply refuses to go down. Frazier clings and clubs, clings and clubs. The round finishes with Frazier's head burning on Ali's chest.

Then before the final bell, as Frazier sits sullenly in his corner, all the punishment he had taken in his fruitful but cruel trade descends on his fighting will like a giant pin. He sobs and shakes his head when Eddie Futch, his manager, offers him the mouthpiece for the final round. Futch tries a second time but the beaten challenger refuses like a child with his inborn dread of medicines.

(In an interview later, Futch would contend that he prevented Frazier from going on with the fight as his fighter, with both eyes virtually shut, could hardly see Ali's punches. "It's senseless exposing him to more punishment," Futch, who though his fighter was leading, said).

Victory stampede

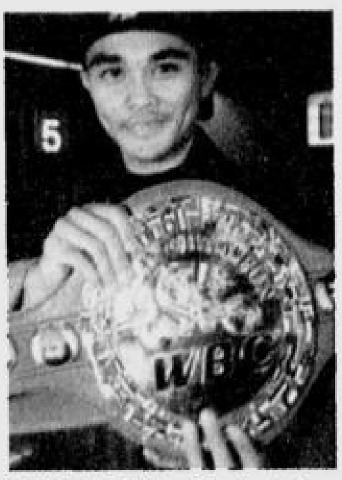
Witnessing Frazier's failure to rise for the final round, Ali's handlers burst into an impromptu celebration. A victory stampede ensues, but Ali, declared officially leading in all cards when he scored the 14th round technical knockout, grabs the nearest comfort by lying on the canvas for some five seconds before reclaiming his seat.

Security men hustle with the spectators who want to reach Ali in the ring. "It's painful," Ali is saying. "Frazier is the toughest man in the world."

Without saying it, Ali begs for air. The stampede worsens. Walter Muhammad spreads out a towel and starts pumping.

"It's hard work," Ali is saying. "It's like death," the champion explains dejectedly like a boy who just woke up from a nightmare of ghouls and curses. "It was next to death."

Bundini is weeping with joy. *Recah Trinidad*



VILORIA: When I look at the mirror, I see a Filipino boy.

Viloria homecoming: Proud to be Pinoy

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NARVACAN, ILOCOS SUR—WORLD BOXING Council light flyweight champion Brian Viloria returned to his home province on Wednesday carrying the pride of his heritage.

"I am proud to be a Filipino, I am proud to be a son of Narvacan where I grew up," a teary eyed Viloria said during a speech to local officials and residents who welcomed him.

He said he did not realize how much the ring victories that he, Manny Pacquiao and Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista had achieved meant to their fellow Filipinos.

"As we put our lives on the line, every one was united, as Filipinos. I was so proud," said the Hawaii-born Viloria. "I did not realize how much impact our fight and our victories had for Filipinos. I am so honored to be a part of the three people who [were instrumental in creating] peace, even for an hour or two, in the Philippines."

Viloria's father, Benjamin, is a native of Barangay San Jose here while his mother, Rosemarie, hails from Barangay Nalvo in Santa Maria town.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Ilocos Sur provincial government lauded Viloria for the honor he gave to the province.

Viloria, in his 12-minute speech, talked about his Filipino heritage.

"Just because on paper I was born in the US, how dare you not call me a Filipino? When I look at the mirror every day, I see a Filipino boy," he said.

Viloria, who represented the United States in the Olympics and in earlier professional fights, said he draped the Philippine flag on his shoulders when he won the belt because he was proud of his roots.

He vowed to return to his hometown

63 fights lined up in special Las Piñas stagfest today

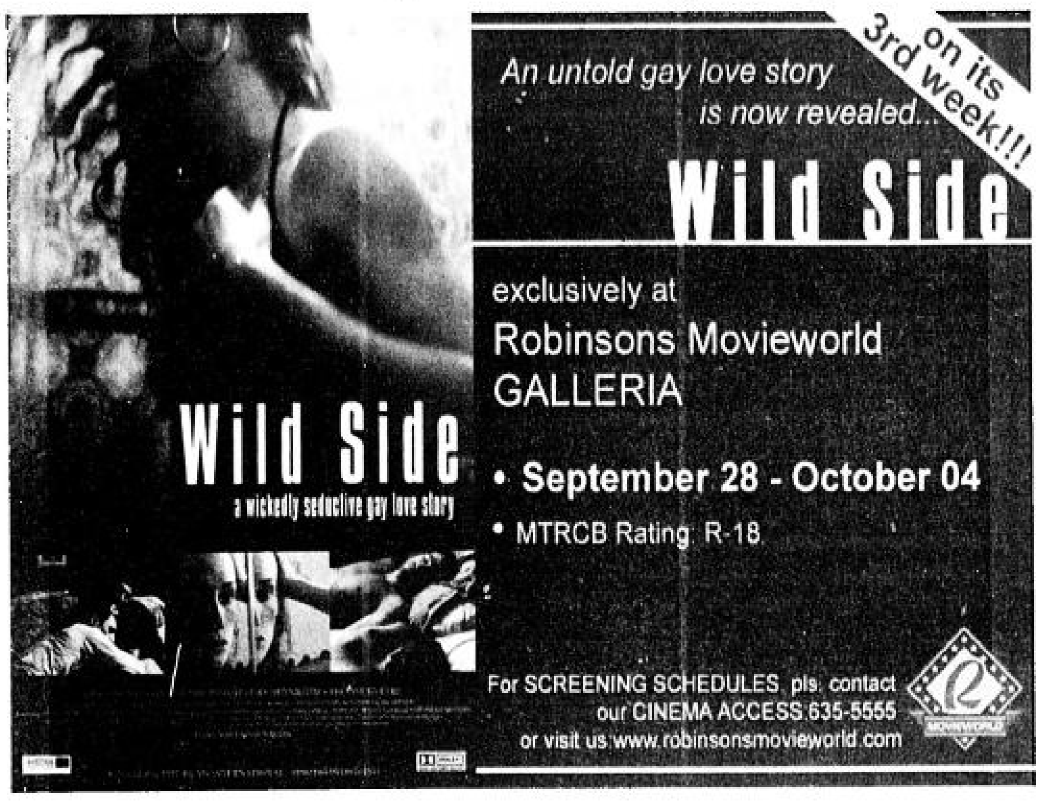
IT'S THE CHAMPIONSHIP OR BUST FOR COCKERS and breeders from Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan and Rizal as the Las Piñas Coliseum's Special 3-Stag Derby unfolds today with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The derby, hosted by former mayor Nene Aguilar, coliseum manager Alex Tobias and Rudy Sayaman, starts at 6 p.m. with 63 matches lined up. The event follows the successful Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby recently which drew 85 entries and was won by the DMC entry of Mandy Garcia of Batangas. Another 3-stag derby unfolds on Oct. 8, with Eric Carreon as host. For inquiries on screening, call 873-1040 or 874-3910.

SJ Coliseum 5-stag derby under way

BIGTIME cockfighting action returns to the San Juan Coliseum today with the staging of the LCC Leonard 5-Stag Derby featuring more than 60 fights. Derby host Louie Cua will be assisted by veteran promoter Boy de Roca and Patrick Antonio. Also backing up Cua are some members of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) and the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP). Meanwhile, the fourth leg of the GCAP 5-stag derby has been slated on Oct. 5. Another 5-stag event is scheduled on Oct. 8, with Arnold Mendoza, Noli Estrellado and Jorge Sales as hosts. For inquiries, call 725-5665, 725-5369 or 7277086.

Fajinfer tops big Makati Coliseum tilt

FAJINFER, the combined entry of veteran cockers Jet Fernando, Pepito Ngo and the Jingco brothers, routed the favorites in ruling the fourth leg of Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-Stag Derby last Monday at the Makati Coliseum. Fajinfer, unscathed with five wins, beat runners-up VP Alegria Uma of lawyer Willie Villarica, BM Bulalayaw of Boy Marzo, Bacolor Gold of Efren Canlas, Golden Link Yra of Blandy Tolentino, Concrete Breaker of Emil Chua and Spencer of William Co. Another round of the PCAP 5-Stag Derby series fires off on Monday with more than 70 fights on tap. Submission of weights is tomorrow, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.



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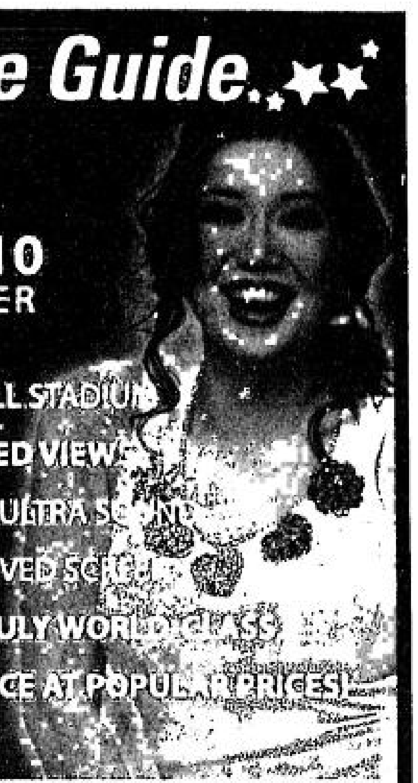

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❷	TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	❺	BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
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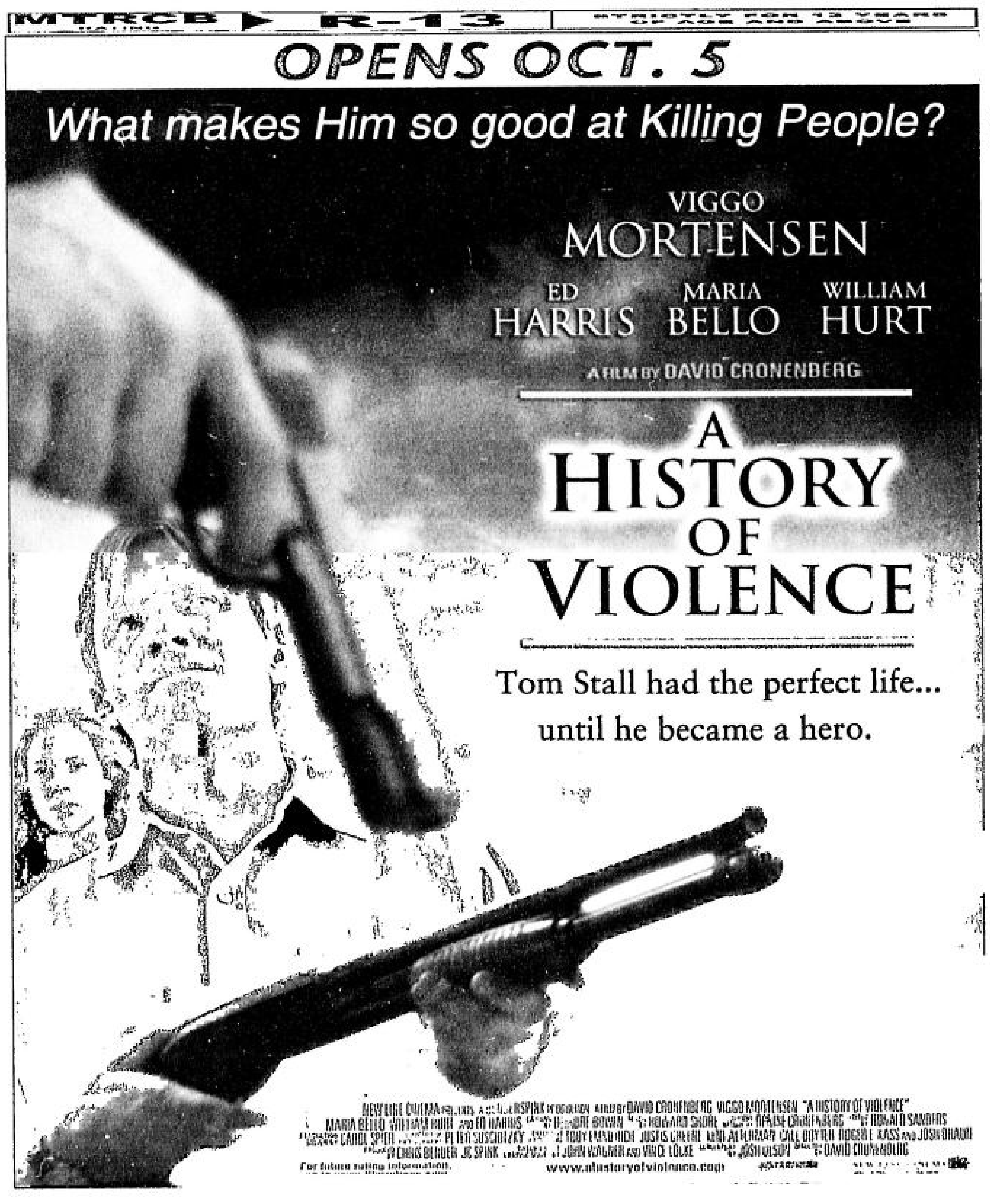

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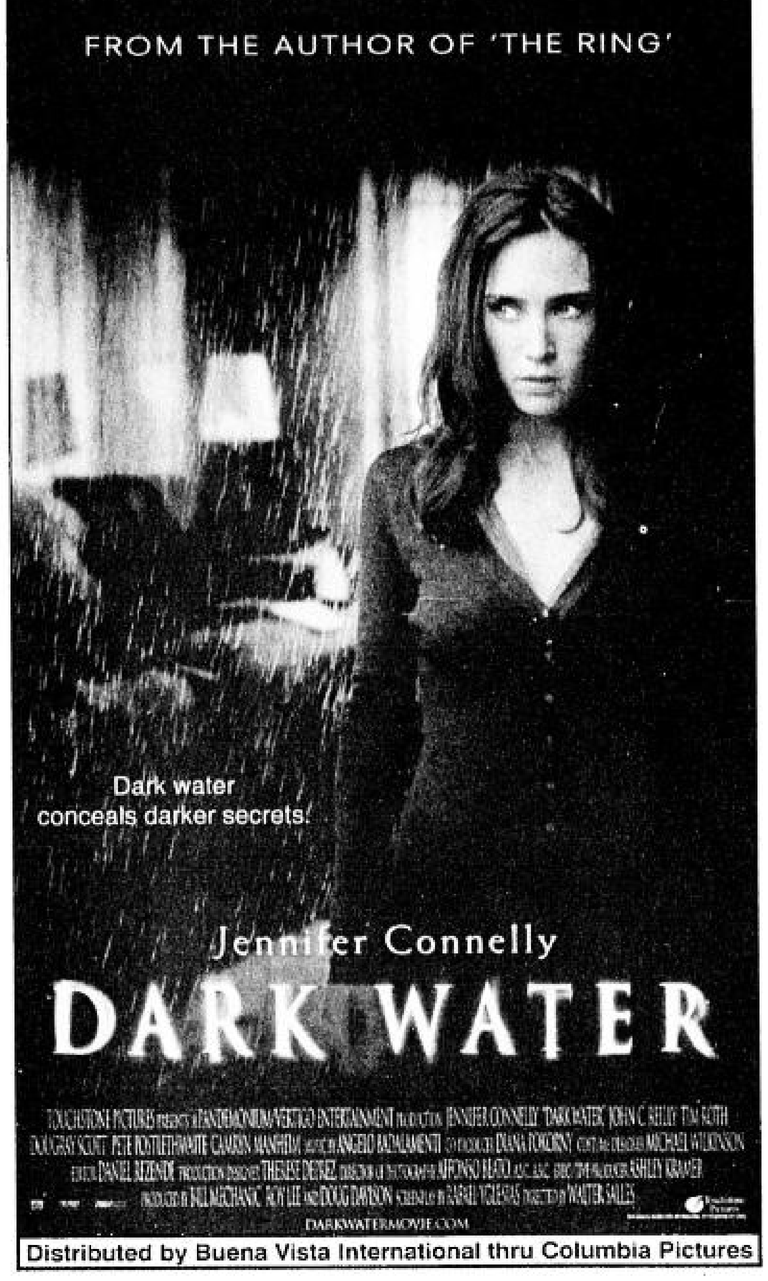
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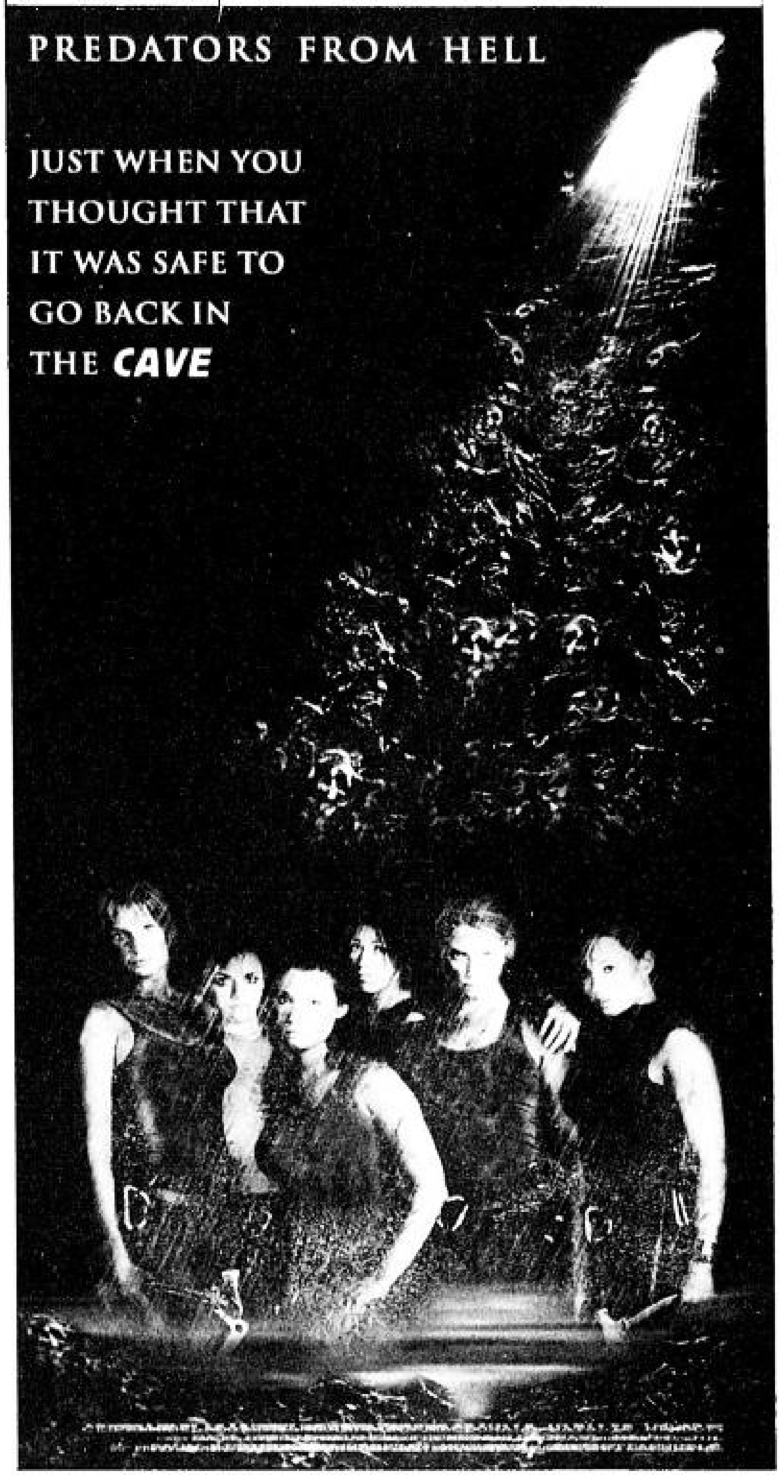
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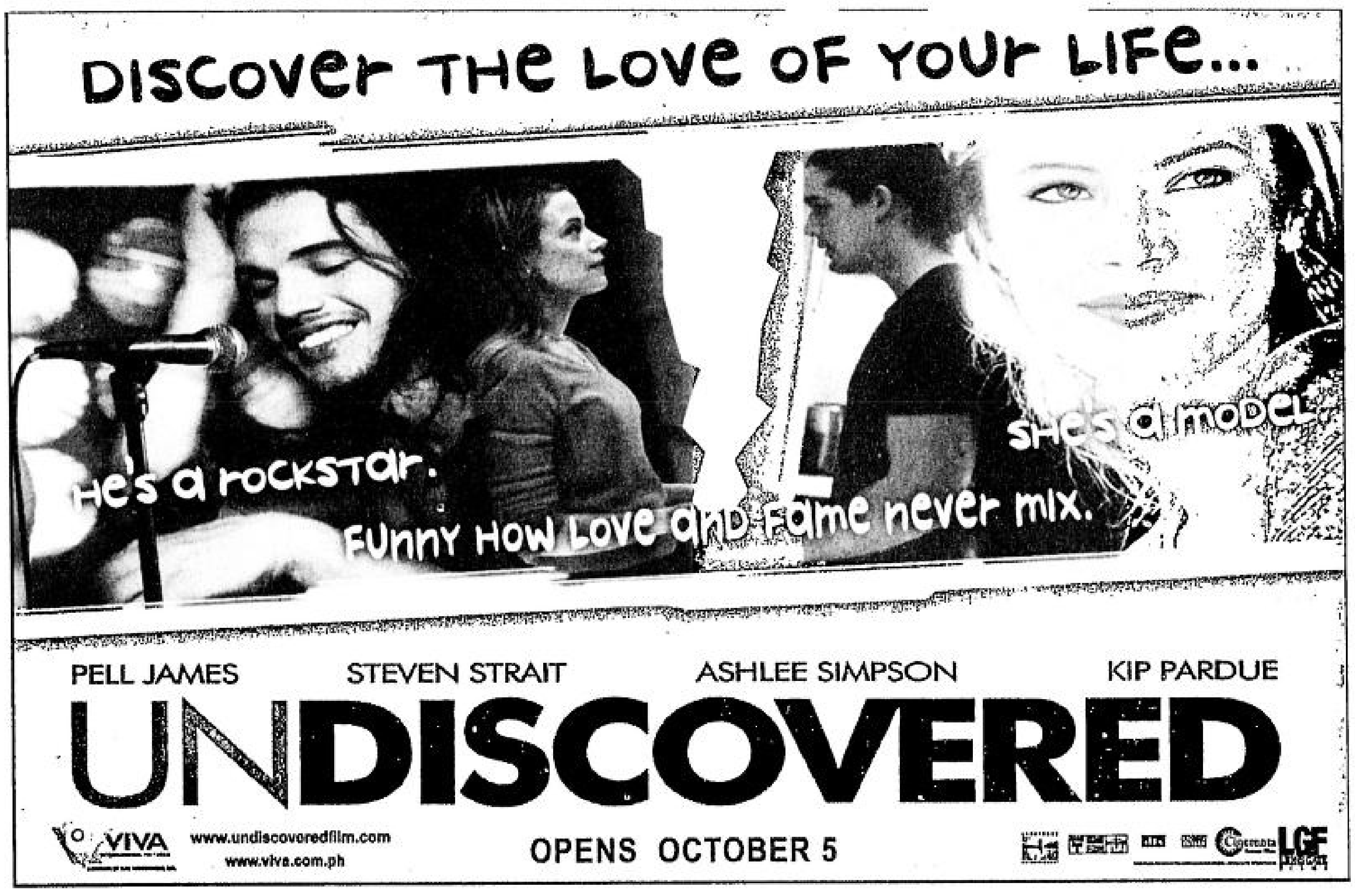
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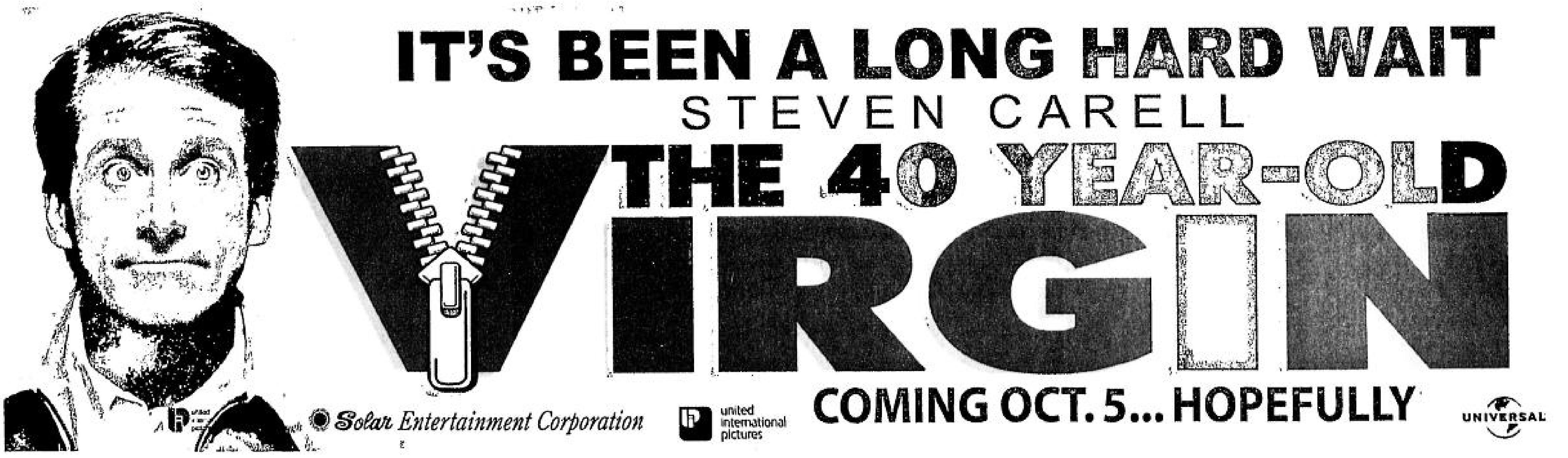
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SPORTS

Phil: No more personal talks about Kobe

LOS ANGELES—PHIL JACKSON WILL keep his personal feelings about Kobe Bryant private this season, unlike 2004 when he labelled the temperamental superstar as defiant and uncoachable in a book.

"I told Kobe that that's the one area (relationship) where I'll try not to disclose," said Jackson who is embarking on his second tour of duty with the rebuilding Los Angeles Lakers.

Jackson takes over one of the National Basketball Association's youngest teams that includes only five players from the club he coached two years ago.

Bryant will be asked to provide leadership, something that Jackson said has been lacking in the past.

Jackson defended Bryant on Wednesday as the two try to heal old wounds and foster harmony in the dressing room.

"For Kobe, it is about on the court," Jackson said. "It is about re-establishing his dominance in the game."

The Lakers finished a dismal 34-48 last season, missing the playoffs. Jackson, who has won nine championships, expects the Lakers to win at least 40 games this year but he is not making any promises.

"I think to get there (playoffs) a team's going to have to win 45, 46 games. I don't know what is realistic," Jackson said.

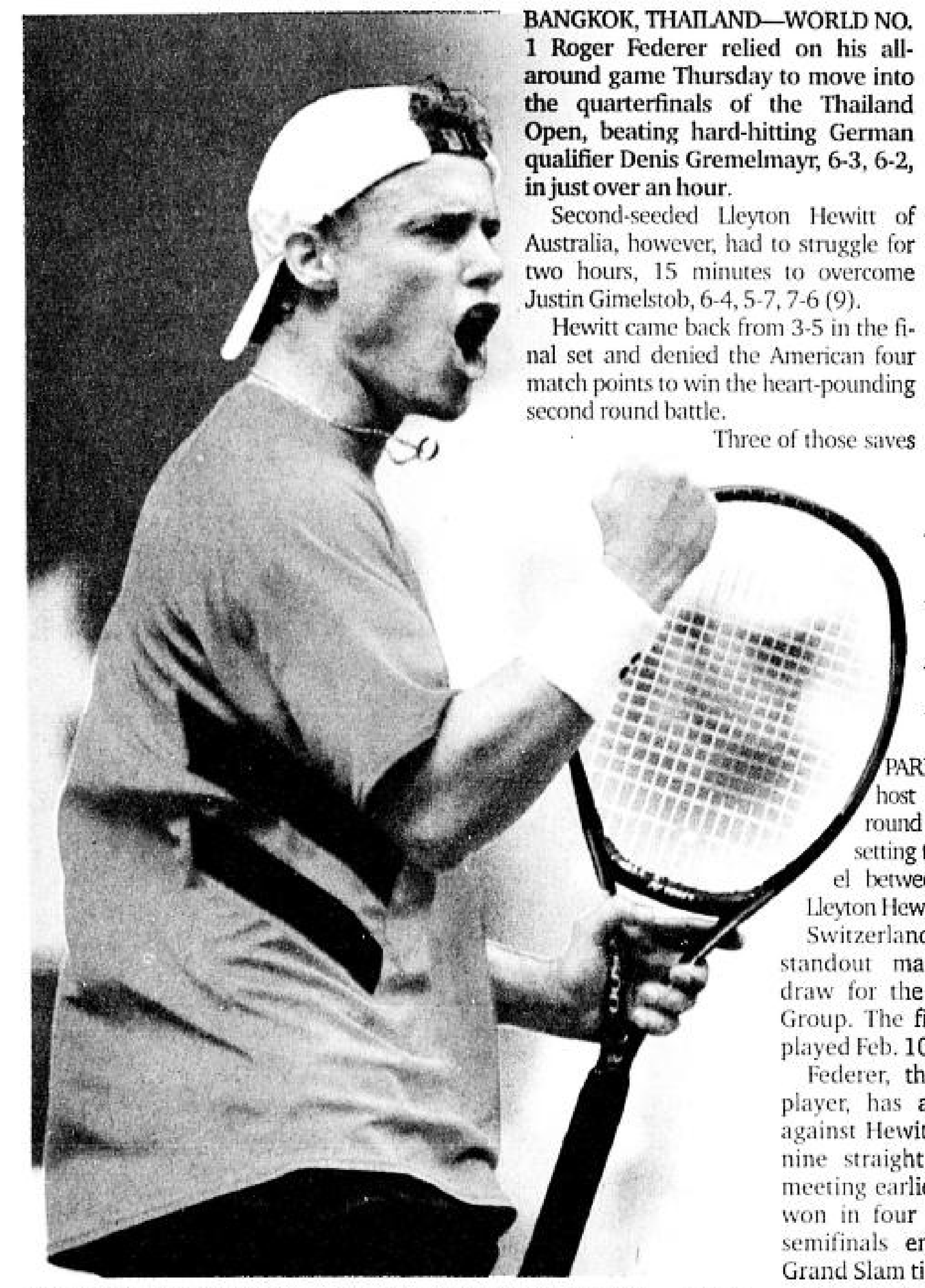
In his book, Jackson painted Bryant as a selfish player who undercut the coach's authority and tried to drive a wedge between the players.

Jackson's book also revealed the extent of the bitterness between Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, who ended up being shipped to Miami in the off-season. *AFP*

JACKSON

BRYANT

Federer, Hewitt gain Thai q'finals


LLEYTON Hewitt celebrates his win over Justin Gimelstob. REUTERS

BANGKOK, THAILAND—WORLD NO. 1 Roger Federer relied on his all-around game Thursday to move into the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open, beating hard-hitting German qualifier Denis Gremelmayr, 6-3, 6-2, in just over an hour.

Second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, however, had to struggle for two hours, 15 minutes to overcome Justin Gimelstob, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9).

Hewitt came back from 3-5 in the final set and denied the American four match points to win the heart-pounding second round battle.

Three of those saves came in the tie-break, with the Australian finally coming out on top on his second match point after Gimelstob served a double fault.

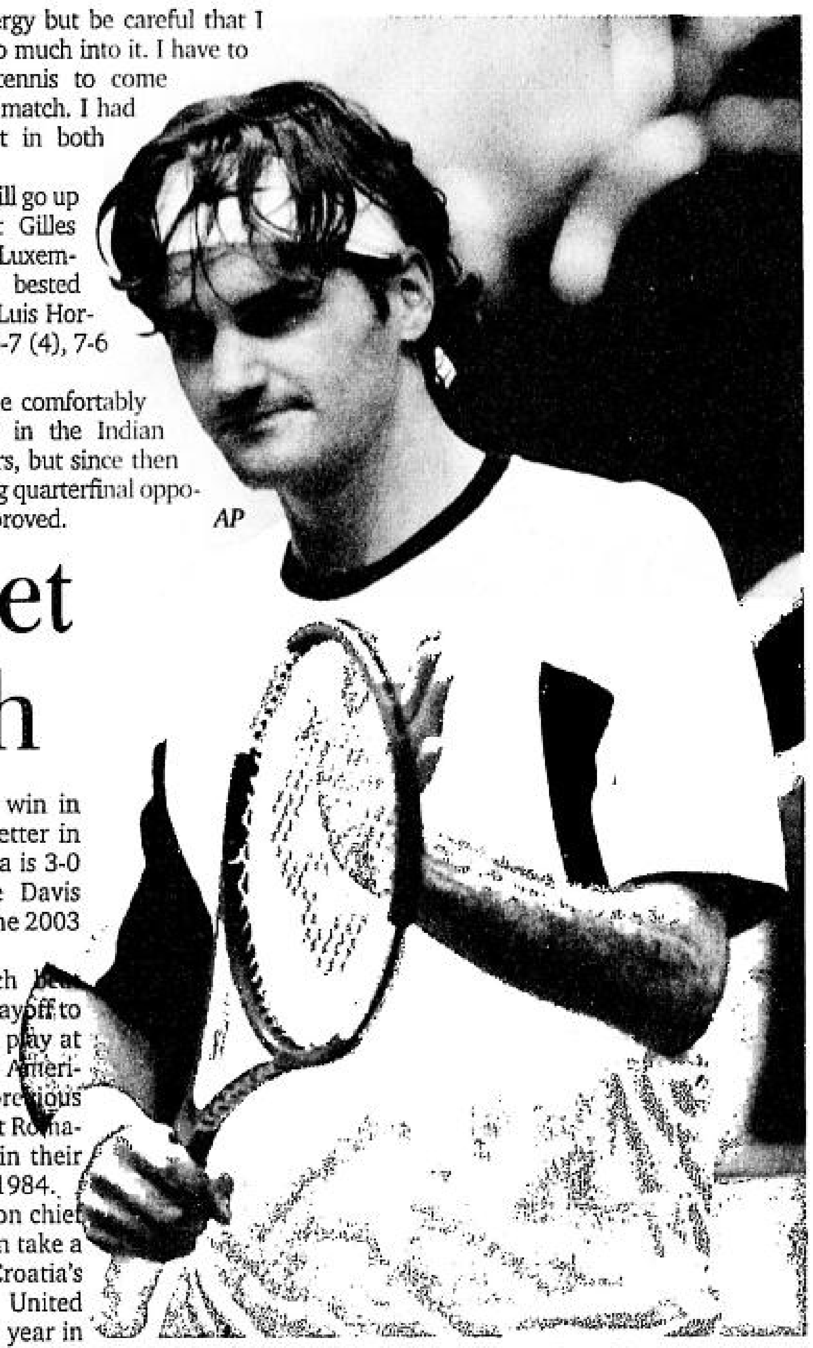
Federer secured an early break in his second game Thursday, which was enough to earn him the first set. He appeared more at ease than in Wednesday's shaky first round, 7-6 (3), 6-4, victory over Marcos Daniel of Brazil.

His impressive serves put him up, 2-0, in the second set, and at 5-2, Federer held his serves comfortably to win the match, which ended when Gremelmayr hit a backhand passing shot wide.

"I was in control all the time," Federer told reporters afterward. "I don't have to push 100 percent all the time. I have to save my energy but be careful that I didn't get too much into it. I have to play good tennis to come through the match. I had a good start in both sets."

Federer will go up next against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, who bested eighth-seed Luis Horna of Peru, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-3.

He said he comfortably beat Muller in the Indian Wells Masters, but since then his upcoming quarterfinal opponent has improved. *AP*


FEDERER: Looking more and more comfortable. REUTERS

Fierce rivals set for Davis clash

PARIS—SWITZERLAND will host Australia in the first round of the 2006 Davis Cup, setting the stage for another duel between Roger Federer and Lleyton Hewitt.

Switzerland-Australia was the standout matchup of Thursday's draw for the 16-team elite World Group. The first-round ties will be played Feb. 10-12.

Federer, the world's top-ranked player, has a 11-7 career record against Hewitt and has beaten him nine straight times. In their last meeting earlier this month, Federer won in four sets in the US Open semifinals en route to his sixth Grand Slam title.

But Hewitt leads Federer 2-0 in Davis Cup play—a four-set win in Zurich in 2000 and a five-setter in Melbourne in 2003. Australia is 3-0 against Switzerland in the Davis Cup, including a 3-2 win in the 2003 semifinals in Melbourne.

The United States, which beat Belgium last weekend in a playoff to stay in the top division, will play at home against Romania. The Americans have won all five previous Davis Cup encounters against Romania, including a 5-0 sweep in their last meeting in Bucharest in 1984.

Romanian tennis federation chief Ilie Nastase said his team can take a bit of an inspiration from Croatia's 3-2 upset victory over the United States in the first round this year in Carson, California. *AP*

PBA winds up mall tour this weekend

THE FIVE-WEEK PBA TOUR AT ROBINSON'S chain of malls ends this weekend with players from two teams visiting Robinson's-Lipa in Batangas and Robinson's-Dasmariñas in Cavite today. Chester Tolomia and Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia will be at Robinson's-Lipa at 4 p.m. while Purefoods' Rey Evangelista and Mike Hrabak will be at Robinson's-Dasmariñas. The PBA players' visit at Robinson's malls is part of the PBA's continuing celebration of its 30th anniversary. The league opens its 31st season tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. Spurred by the success of last year's PBA One-on-One at Robinson's, the country's top chain of malls decided to re-stage the mall tour to give fans the chance to meet their favorite players. This year's tour features three photo display centers namely "Ang Mga Bida Ng Liga," "Through the Years," and "Kaya Naman Ito ang Game Ko." The tour, sponsored by Robinson's, Epson, FedEx, Air21 and Mall and More, has visited malls in Pioneer, Metro East, Manila, Starmills in Pampanga, Galleria, Imus and Sta. Rosa in Laguna.

La Salle-Dasma dominates UCAA

LA SALLE-DASMARIÑAS PROVED unstoppable Thursday as it swept the men's and women's crowns of the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) volleyball tournament.

The Patriots, coached by Fidel Rojales, bagged the men's plum after beating the St. Francis Doves, 27-29, 25-22, 26-24, 25-18, in Game 2 of their best-of-three finals showdown at the La Salle-Dasmariñas gym.

The Jasmine Bacolod-mentored Lady Patriots outplayed Olivarez College, 25-22, 25-19, 25-22, in the battle for the women's crown.

It was the Patriots' second straight title while Lady Patriots ruled the women's side for the third straight year.

Meanwhile, Roger Nacpil came off the bench and carried the La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots to a 69-58 beating of the National College of Business and Arts Wildcats yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center.

This is the first time that the Patriots are in the finals in three years. They will meet the EAC Generals for the title.

Miriam, St. Scho resume title chase

MIRIAM COLLEGE AND ST. SCHOLASTICA's College resume today their chase for the second finals seat in Group B of the WNCAA 36th season senior basketball tournament even as defending junior champion De La Salle Zobel eyes a twice-to-beat edge in the semifinals.

Miriam (7-3) will try to boot out newcomer La Consolacion College (5-4) for the right to face San Beda College Alabang in the best-of-three finals in their 4:30 p.m. game at the EAC gym.

St. Scholastica, toting a 6-3 slate, will also boost its title chances if it beats Siena College (0-9) at 3 p.m.

DLSZ faces SBCA at 11 a.m. at the St. Scho gym hoping for a win that will give it the twice-to-beat edge. Miriam, which shares the lead with DLSZ at 6-0, will get the same advantage if it beats Angelicum at 9:30 a.m.

In the other seniors game, host Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila (4-5) mixes it up with University of Asia and the Pacific (1-8) in a bid to make it to the winner-take-all battle for third place in Group B.

Unfazed RP volleybelles seek SEA Games finals

RP TEAM coach Ramil de Jesus (right) and members of the national women's volleyball team wrap up a practice session at the Rizal Coliseum. The team is readying for the Shakey's Volleyball Invitational on Oct. 7-9 featuring teams from Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar.

THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE THE same national women's volleyball team that finished third in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games two years ago.

The squad that is preparing to play before a hometown crowd in the coming SEAG is eyeing no less than a stint in the championship.

"Our goal is to make the finals this year and see if we can win the gold from there," said RP team coach Ramil de Jesus, tasked to lead the bid to bring back the country's glory days in women's volleyball, at least in the region.

Looming as a big obstacle for the volleybelles is powerhouse Thailand.

The team gets a peek at what the Thais have to offer when they play against the hot favorite in a tournament organized by Shakey's.

The Manila SEA Games is slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

"Thailand remains strong but we have a strong chance of beating them because most of their veterans are injured," added De Jesus.

The Nationals, led by Cherry Macatangay, Michelle Carolino and Roxanne Pimentel, will also get to test Malaysia and Myanmar—two more SEAG foes—in the exhibition tournament dubbed the Shakey's Invitational Volleyball beginning Oct. 7 at the Rizal Coliseum.

The upcoming Shakey's tournament should indeed give the RP spikers the exposure they need after seeing action in the World Qualifying in July and the 13th Asian Championship last month. After the Shakey's Volleyball Invitational, the RP squad will train in Japan from Oct. 19 to Nov. 1.

The other members of the squad are Mayette Carolino, Tina Salak, Mary Jean Balse, Maureen Penetrante, Shermain Penano, Suzaine Roces, Lali Peñaflorida, Desiree Hernandez, Rubie de Leon and Monica Aleta.

Best MYG athletes to get scholarships

FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IS AT STAKE when the first Manila Youth Games (MYG) national invitational kicks off Oct. 23.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), said the scholarships will go to the city's outstanding performers.

"One of our long-term plans is to provide Manila's deserving athletes with proper college education through scholarship while giving them the time and tools to train and further improve their skills," said Atienza.

Atienza bared that a Bachelor in Physical Education and Sports course will be offered to top athletes by the city's public high schools at the City College of Manila (CCM).

"The inclusion of sports in the curriculum of the city government-ran college will give immediate priority to Manila's deserving athletes," added Atienza, who thanked CCM president Dr. Rodrigo Malunhao and his Board for their support.

Atienza added that a special committee headed by Doctor Malunhao shall be formed to select the most deserving athletes who will be offered free college education based on criteria to be set by the committee.

The MYG invitational is the first-ever local government-initiated national level sports competition, which will feature the best athletes aged 17 and under from other LGUs all over the country competing against the finest athletes from Manila.

According to Atienza, about 40 major cities, municipalities and provinces have already confirmed participation in the event, which will initially have six focus sports in its inaugural staging, namely: athletics, swimming, taekwondo, football, and little league softball and baseball.

The event was patterned after the Manila Youth Games—a first-of-its-kind city-wide community-based sports development program for the youth.

More than 10,000 athletes from the city's 897 barangays and 130 public and private schools saw action in last year's edition of the Big City games.

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NOW SHOWING

Aga displays fine thespic form in romantic tearjerker

By Rito P. Asilo

"Dubai"

D: Rory B. Quintos
S: Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto, John Lloyd Cruz

AGA MUHLACH DISPLAYS fine thespic insight and range in Rory Quintos' mawkish but well-told and vividly photographed romantic drama about two brothers, Raffy and Andrew (Muhlach and John Lloyd Cruz, respectively), working in Dubai, who are bound together by a painful past and strengthened by a common childhood dream: To seek a better life in snow-bound Canada.

Raffy, a charming lothario with a soft spot for his beleaguered *kababayans* in that Middle-Eastern capital, is pleased to finally be reunited with his brother, whom he hasn't seen in nine years.

Andrew sees his current employment as a way to raise money to finally go to Canada. Unknown to him, however, Raffy's priorities in life have since changed. Suddenly, the siblings' happy reunion is threatened when Andrew meets and falls in love with Faye (Claudine Barretto), who turns out to be one of Raffy's jilted girlfriends.

On the rebound, Faye grudgingly returns Andrew's amorous attentions, but she soon acknowledges that shaking Andrew out of her system is easier said than done.

The dilemma escalates further when Raffy realizes that he's still in love with Faye, who's gotten herself pregnant out of wedlock—a moral transgression punishable by death in Dubai!

Quintos' film, though not without flaws, boasts of picture-perfect cinematography (caramel-colored sand dunes, sleepy-eyed camels, awesome architecture), and side stories about overseas Filipino workers who are haunted by their seemingly insurmountable problems back home.

And telling social commentaries trickle in with biting pertinence as they underscore the local government's inability to provide well-paying jobs for its people.

Despite its glossy production values and the picturesque Arabian landscape, "Dubai" successfully dodges the travelogue route.

Unfortunately, the movie doesn't fully realize its noble intentions, and wavers by setting up scenes that are obviously engineered to weave together its narrative implausibilities—a storytelling tack that diminishes its emotional kick. For one, the difficulties that Raffy has been through *don't* justify his cavalier and blasé attitude toward women.

What Quintos successfully showcases is Aga's admirable control of his thespic facility—a skill that enables the actor to make his character's motivations, strengths and weaknesses understandable and sympathetic. Barretto and Cruz don't do so

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2 PERFECT CATCH
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:05/04:15/06:25/08:35
10:15LFS/10:45LMF/12:45END

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07:05LFS/07:40LMF/09:30END
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:24LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

MANILA
TRANSPORTER 2
10:15FS/10:30MF/12:20/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:05END

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2 PERFECT MAN
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DUBAI
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 ONE MISSED CALL 2
7 DARK WATER
8 TRANSPORTER 2
9 DUBAI
10 LAZARUS CHILD
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DARK WATER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 PERFECT MAN
7 TRANSPORTER 2
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 DUBAI
10 A SOUND OF THUNDER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 CONSTANT GARDENER

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1 RESERVED
2 PERFECT MAN
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 DUBAI
TRANSPORTER 2
DUBAI

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CONSTANT GARDENER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
LOVESTRUCK
4 PERFECT MAN
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
TRANSPORTER 2
DUBAI
8 DARK WATER
ONE MISSED CALL 2
10 PERFECT MAN
BLADE OF THE ROSE
DUBAI

SM CITY STA MESA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUBAI
6 DARK WATER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 ONE MISSED CALL 2
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 PERFECT CATCH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUBAI
6 DARK WATER
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TRANSPORTER 2
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
PERFECT CATCH
4 DARK WATER
5 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DUBAI
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DUBAI
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
BROTHERS GRIMM
DARK WATER
THE CAVE
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 DUBAI
DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
LAND OF THE DEAD
PERFECT CATCH
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DUBAI
BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI
LOVESTRUCK
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
LAND OF THE DEAD
DARK WATER
DUBAI
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY LUCENA
DUBAI
DUBAI
LONGEST YARD
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BAGUIO
DUBAI
CINDERELLA MAN
LONGEST YARD
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY MARILAO
DUBAI
DUBAI
LOVESTRUCK
4 DARK WATER

SM CITY BATANGAS
DUBAI
DUBAI
3 THE CAVE
4 LONGEST YARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
MUSIC DIARY - MUSICAL SHOW
DUBAI
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
6 RESERVED
RESERVED
DUBAI

SM CITY ILOILO
BROTHERS GRIMM
RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
RESERVED
CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUBAI
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
DUBAI

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 RED EYE
2 VALIANT
3 DUBAI
4 DUBAI

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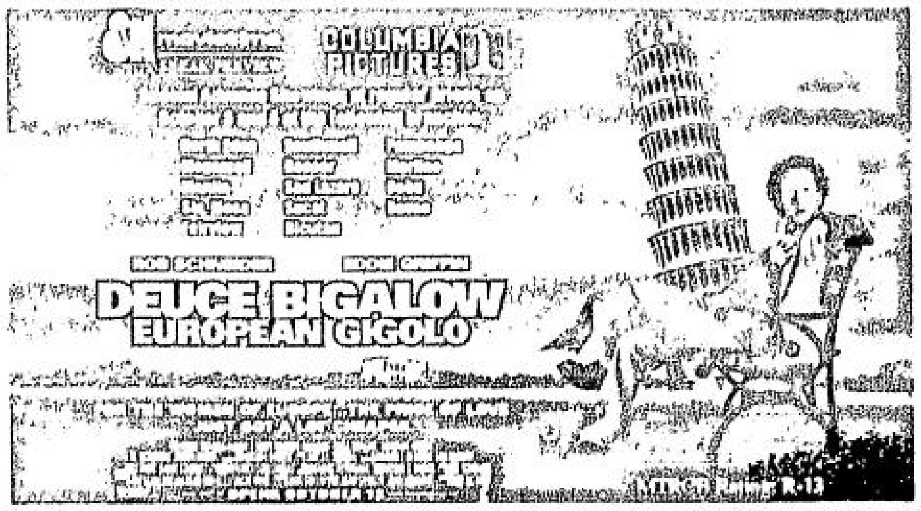

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DUBAI PG13 11:35,2:05,4:35 CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 6:50,9:20	THE DESCENT R18 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	TRANSPORTER 2 PG13 11:30,1:35,3:45, 5:55,8:05,10:15

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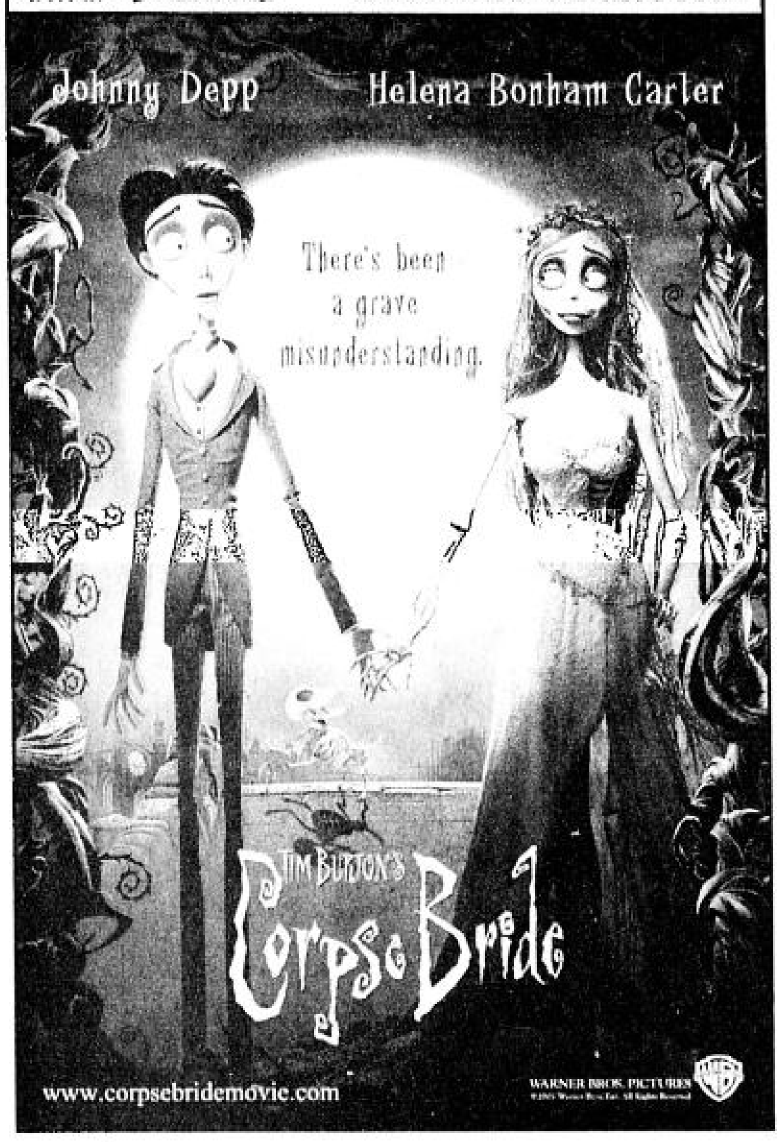

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Aga . . .

• From page A2-1

badly themselves, but beside Muhlach, they're simply out of their league!

"Transporter 2"

D: Louis Leterrier
S: Jason Stratham, Amber Valetta

For action fans who get their kick from watching lightning-speed action and the take-no-prisoners heroics of fearless, muscle-bound protagonists, the second installment of Louis Leterrier's action franchise is a satisfying albeit implausible piece of cinematic pulp treat.

This time around, the indestructible Frank Martin (Jason Stratham) is out to rescue the son of a prominent narcotics policymaker from kidnappers. Using street-smart wisdom, high-flying speed and agility, he sets out to reclaim the boy and teach the bad guys a thing or two about his painful brand of justice and retribution.

The action sequences defy laws of physics and logic, but Leterrier executes them with smooth, seamless precision and technical savvy. —Now, if only it were easy to suspend disbelief that removing a bomb planted under an automobile is as easy as speeding your car on a steep incline, and spinning it in the air to pull the explosive off the car's chassis by a hook on a crane —!

"The Descent"

D: Neil Marshall
S: Shauna Macdonald, Natalie Mendoza

If you're up for a good scare, Neil Marshall's ("Dog Soldiers") well-made British flick offers a healthy serving of thrills and chills. Fil-Aussie Natalie Mendoza, last seen in John Dahl's "The Great Raid," stars as one of six female spelunkers who look for fun and adventure in the Appalachian mountains.

Instead, they get more than they bargained for—what they stumble into becomes a matter of life and death! As the cautionary saying goes: Be careful what you wish for…

Tightly edited, briskly paced and ably acted, "The Descent" is a horrifying monster movie with a scientifically plausible premise—that flesh-nibbling creatures can, indeed, lurk in the depths and crannies of unexplored territories, and that they exist not merely as a result of mutation, but also of evolution. Don't say we didn't warn you!

FUENTES. Token of appreciation.

Fuentes launches albums

INTERNATIONAL musician Toti Fuentes returns to Manila to launch two albums—gifts of his foundation to helpful donors.

The affair is billed "With Love in Our Hearts, From Toti & Friends," at Merk's Bar & Bistro, Monday, Oct. 3, at 9 p.m.

Ever since Toti discovered his affliction with cancer, he tirelessly staged fundraising concerts to raise funds for the needy. As a token of appreciation, Toti and manager Bibsy Carballo thought of coming up with something he knew best—music.

Duets

The album, "Montet and Friends," features Ramon "Montet" Acoymo singing duets with Manolet Garcia, Alma Concepcion, Ricky Davao, Flexi Sarte, Richard Signey and Fr. Joseph Skelton Jr.

Another album in production is "Rico J. and Friends, The Christmas Album" with Rico J. performing with Ivy Violan, Jenine Desiderio, Richard Merk, Jacqui Magno, Tosca Puno, Tirso Cruz III, Jackielou Blanco, Roanne Mallari, Bodjie Pascua, Miguel Castro, Kimberly Diaz and Ricky Davao. Boyband CY Boys and the St. John's Chorale are also featured.

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT MAN	2 PERFECT CATCH	3 THX TRANSPORTER 2 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7 00, 9 00, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LAND OF THE DEAD	5 THE DESCENT	6 DUBAI	7 DUBAI
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	3 THE DESCENT 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFECT MAN 2 50, 5 00, 7 10, 9 20, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DARK WATER 7 25, 4 30, 6 35, 8 40, 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX TRANSPORTER 2	2 DUBAI		
	3 DUBAI	4 THE DESCENT	5 PERFECT MAN	
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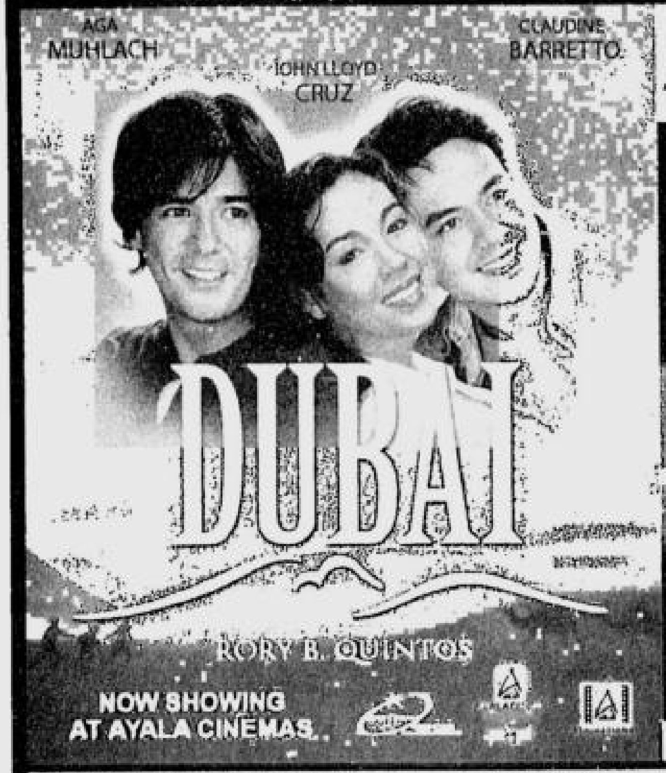

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2 THE TRANSPORTER 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	7 WILD SIDE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 LOVESTRUCK 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 LAND OF THE DEAD 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45	9 DARK WATER 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
5 THE PERFECT MAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	10 LOVESTRUCK 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
2 ONE MISSED CALL 2 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:00 1:55 3:50 THE PERFECT CATCH 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 THE DESCENT 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50	6 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:10 2:10 4:10 DARK WATER 6:10 8:05 10:00
4 LOVESTRUCK 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 THE PERFECT MAN 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

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1 THE CONSTANT GARDENER 1:30 4:00 6:30 9.00	5 DARK WATER 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 THE DESCENT 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05	6 THE PERFECT CATCH 1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9.00
3 ONE MISSED CALL 2 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	7 THE TRANSPORTER 2 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 LOVESTRUCK 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

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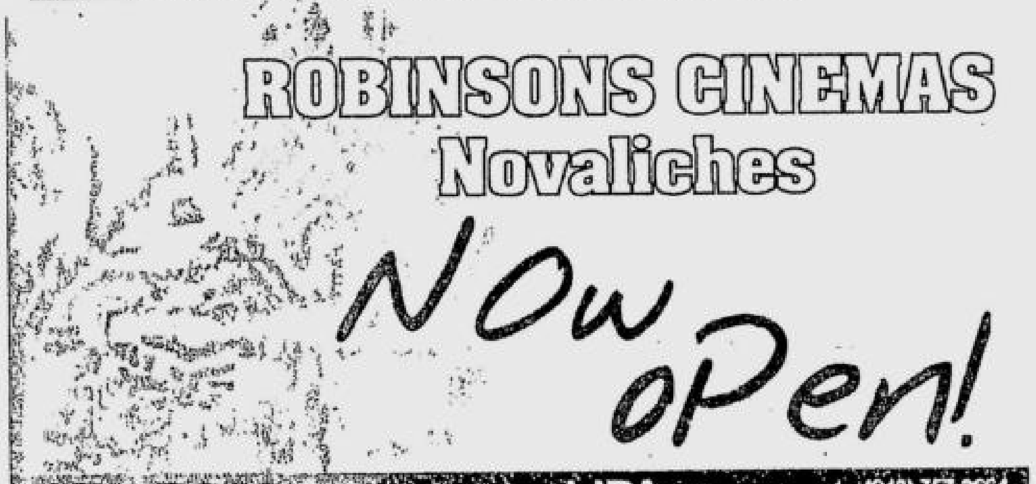

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5 BLADE OF THE ROSE	5 THE CAVE
	6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

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3 THE CAVE	3 CINDERELLA MAN
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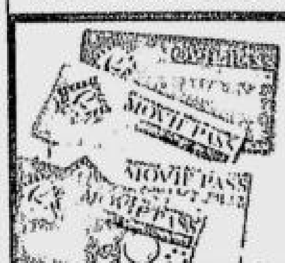

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'Little Big Star' should let kids sing like kids

SARAH Geronimo hosts ABS-CBN's latest talent search for kids.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SATURDAY, ABS-CBN LAUNCHED A new tilt, "Little Big Star," to discover new child singing stars. There are two divisions, for younger and older kids. Last weekend four children competed in each category until one winner was chosen for each division.

We appreciate the opportunity that the new competition is providing the country's most promising child singers, and ABS-CBN should be complimented for coming up with "Little Big Star."

Presentation

However, some aspects of the contest and its presentation on TV need to be looked into and improved on, to make sure that the program is of real, positive service to our young talents.

First, the show intrudes too much into the young contestants' lives, coming up with "tear-jerker" stories about some young singers' penury and their need to make money for their families.

We suppose that this is being done to raise the show's emotional quotient, and to make viewers care for the contestants and their determined quest for fame and fortune.

But, we submit that this ploy is too intrusive, and disrespects the privacy of the young singers and their families. The contestants should be appreciated and judged on their performing talent, period.

Next, we object to some of the kids' being made to look and act like little adults, complete with make-up, dangling earrings, etc. Children should be allowed to be children, and to sing and interpret songs suitable to their tender age.

Choice of songs

This "adultification" of the young contestants was most glaringly evident in the choice of songs for them to perform. Most of them were too mature, and their lyrics spoke of emotions and physical and psychological needs too adult for them to even think about:

"The pain I feel because of loving you" . . . "Stay in my arms if you dare" . . . "I don't wanna hurt anymore" . . . *"Habang may buhay, sa 'yo ibibigay"* . . . *"Paano ang puso kong ito ngayong wala ka na sa buhay ko?"* —Good grief!

Also not psychologically healthy is the burden that some of the young singers' families are placing on their little shoulders. One kid said he was joining the contest to make enough money "*para hindi kami mapaalis sa bahay namin.*"

Another contestant was determined to support his mother because *umalis na si* Papa, *meron nang ibang pamilya."* A third: "*Gusto kong kumita ng pera para hindi na mag-away si* Papa *at* Mama."

Also reprehensible was the practice of a parent to "*palo*" his daughter when she didn't do well during rehearsals.

Harsh realities

Now, we know that these harsh realities do happen, and some children here have to bear burdens that are too heavy for them. But, exploiting these realities in singing tilts to generate greater empathy or pathos is a no-no.

Rather, these shows should uphold children's right to be children, and remind parents that it's *their* responsibility to make money for their families.

Finally, the show should guard against the usual *Pinoy* tendency to favor "*birit*" (belting) performances in singing competitions. Little kids shouldn't be made to think that shouting and screeching are hallmarks of great singing—and the show's judges should favor contestants who behave and sound like the *children* they are.

High art from junk

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

GABBY BARREDO, A University of Santo Tomas graduate, is internationally renowned as a sculptor of kinetic and installation art.

His residence houses his art pieces—the *sala* is his gallery. In previous exhibits, Gabby presented sculptures made of junk steel, and one of them is now in Richard Gomez' collection. In fact, some critics hailed his first exhibit as "art's biggest discovery of the decade."

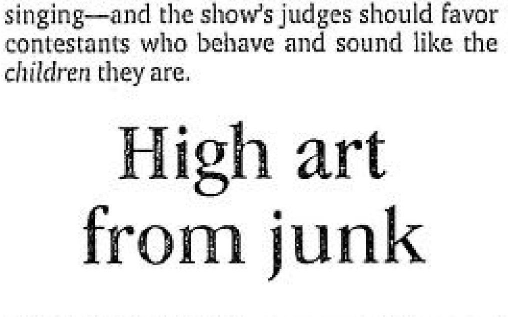
Gabby's second exhibit, "Invisible," at the Ayala Museum, features flowing water and sounds.

Admirers

Dr. Nina Capistrano-Baker, head of Ayala Museum, and Bea Zobel Jr. are among Barredo's admirers.

Gabby uses objects that he retrieves from people's storerooms, and from junk shops. He then transforms them into precious works of art.

His works are on view daily (except Mondays) from Oct. 14 to Nov. 6 at the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and at 10 a.m. on weekends. Call Ayala Museum at 757-7117.



BARREDO. His *sala* is his gallery.

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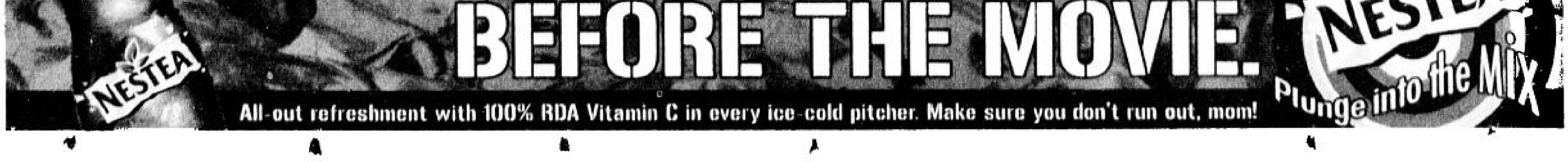

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SATURDAY Special

Keanu, Leo in much-anticipated remakes

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM GERRY ALBOS: **"Is it true that Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock will reunite in a romantic drama?"**

Yes, Gerry, the stars of "Speed," team up anew in a remake of the bittersweet Korean romantic drama, Hyun-seung Lee's "Il Mare." Bullock and Reeves will play a couple who exchanges love letters—in different years: She's in 1997, he's in 1999!

It's a trend! Film lovers are in for a sumptuous cinematic feast, as Hollywood gears up for more remakes of movie classics and art-house hits.

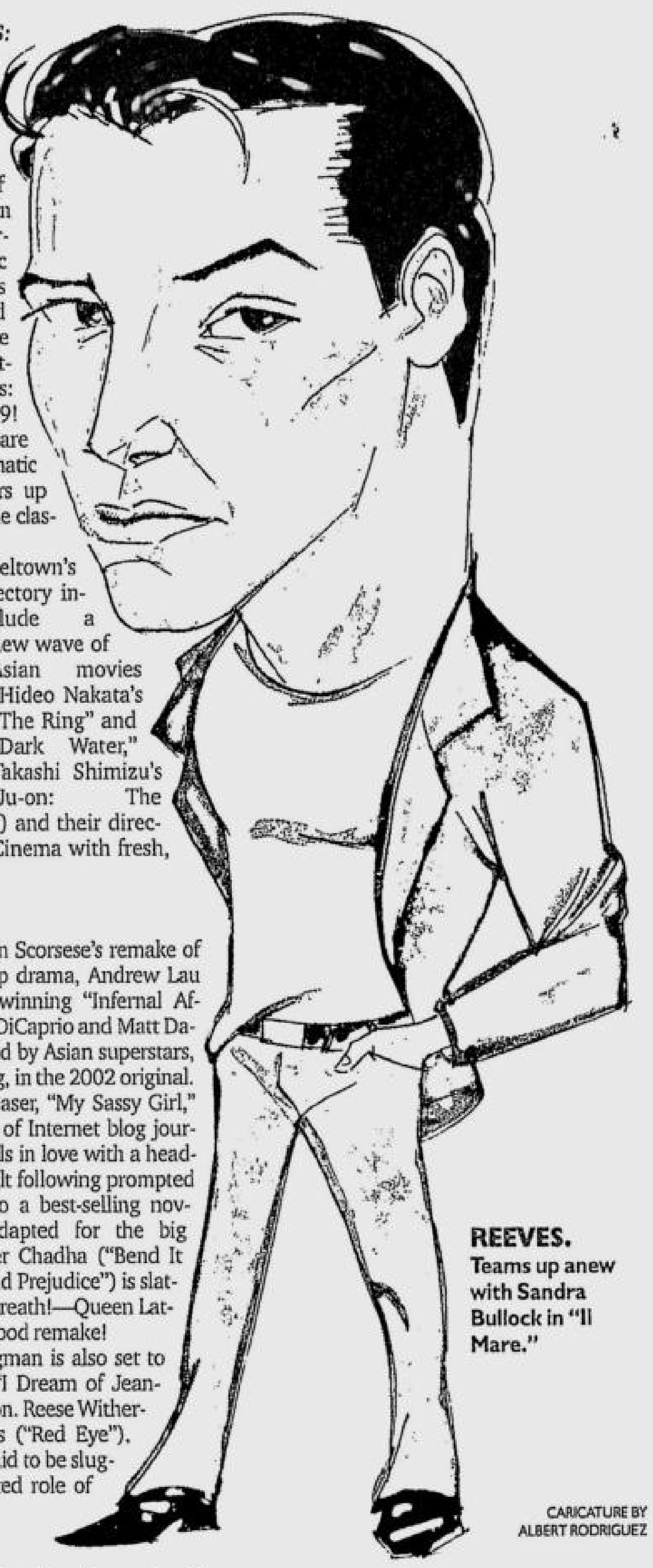
Huge winners in Tinseltown's current filmmaking trajectory include a new wave of Asian movies (Hideo Nakata's "The Ring" and "Dark Water," Takashi Shimizu's "Ju-on: The Grudge," to name a few) and their directors, who ignite World Cinema with fresh, innovative ideas.

Cop drama

"The Departed," Martin Scorsese's remake of the gritty Hong Kong cop drama, Andrew Lau and Alan Mak's award-winning "Infernal Affairs," will star Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon in the roles portrayed by Asian superstars, Andy Lau and Tony Leung, in the 2002 original.

The Korean crowd-pleaser, "My Sassy Girl," was culled from a series of Internet blog journals, about a boy who falls in love with a headstrong, enigmatic girl. Cult following prompted its author to turn it into a best-selling novel—which was later adapted for the big screen. Director Gurinder Chadha ("Bend It Like Beckham," "Bride and Prejudice") is slated to direct—hold your breath!—Queen Latifah to topbill the Hollywood remake!

The Kenyan-born megman is also set to remake the TV classic, "I Dream of Jeannie," starring Jimmy Fallon. Reese Witherspoon, Rachel McAdams ("Red Eye"), and Kate Bosworth are said to be slugging it out for the coveted role of Samantha.



REEVES. Teams up anew with Sandra Bullock in "Il Mare."

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Footage

Speaking of Bosworth, the "Blue Crush" beauty leads the cast of Bryan Singer's highly anticipated "Superman Returns," opposite Brandon Routh, James Marsden and Kevin Spacey as Lex Luthor. Interestingly, the remake also features—would you believe?—Marlon Brando (who passed away last year) as the Man of Steel's father, Jor-El, using archival footage from Richard Donner's 1978 version that starred Christopher Reeve!

Another Asian thriller, the Pang brothers' "The Eye," has recently been remade by Bollywood's Shripal Morakhia as "Naina—Evil Eyes." But, the movie-making duo will direct its Hollywood incarnation, with Renée Zellweger in the lead.

The filmmaking merry-go-round doesn't end there: Michael J. Bassett's heavily panned "Deathwatch," about nine British soldiers caught behind enemy lines and seeking refuge in German trenches during World War I, was successfully remade into the stylish, highly watchable "R-Point," using the Vietnam War as setting. A Hollywood version of the film is now in the works.

(CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT) ROUTH, BOSWORTH, SPACEY AND MARSDEN. Lead cast of Bryan Singer's "Superman Returns."

Frenzy

Hollywood's remaking frenzy further heats up in December when Peter Jackson's version of "King Kong," starring Naomi Watts and Adrien Brody, makes its theatrical bow. The movie's heroine, Ann Darrow, was portrayed by Fay Wray in the 1933 original, while Jessica Lange played her in 1976.

Paul Haggis ("Crash") has been hired to write a new version of Ian Flemyng's 1953 novel, "Casino Royale," Sony and MGM's 21st installment of the James Bond franchise.

In an interview, Haggis is optimistic about the project: "We're trying to reinvent Bond. In the movie, he's only 28—and he has no gadgets and no Q!"

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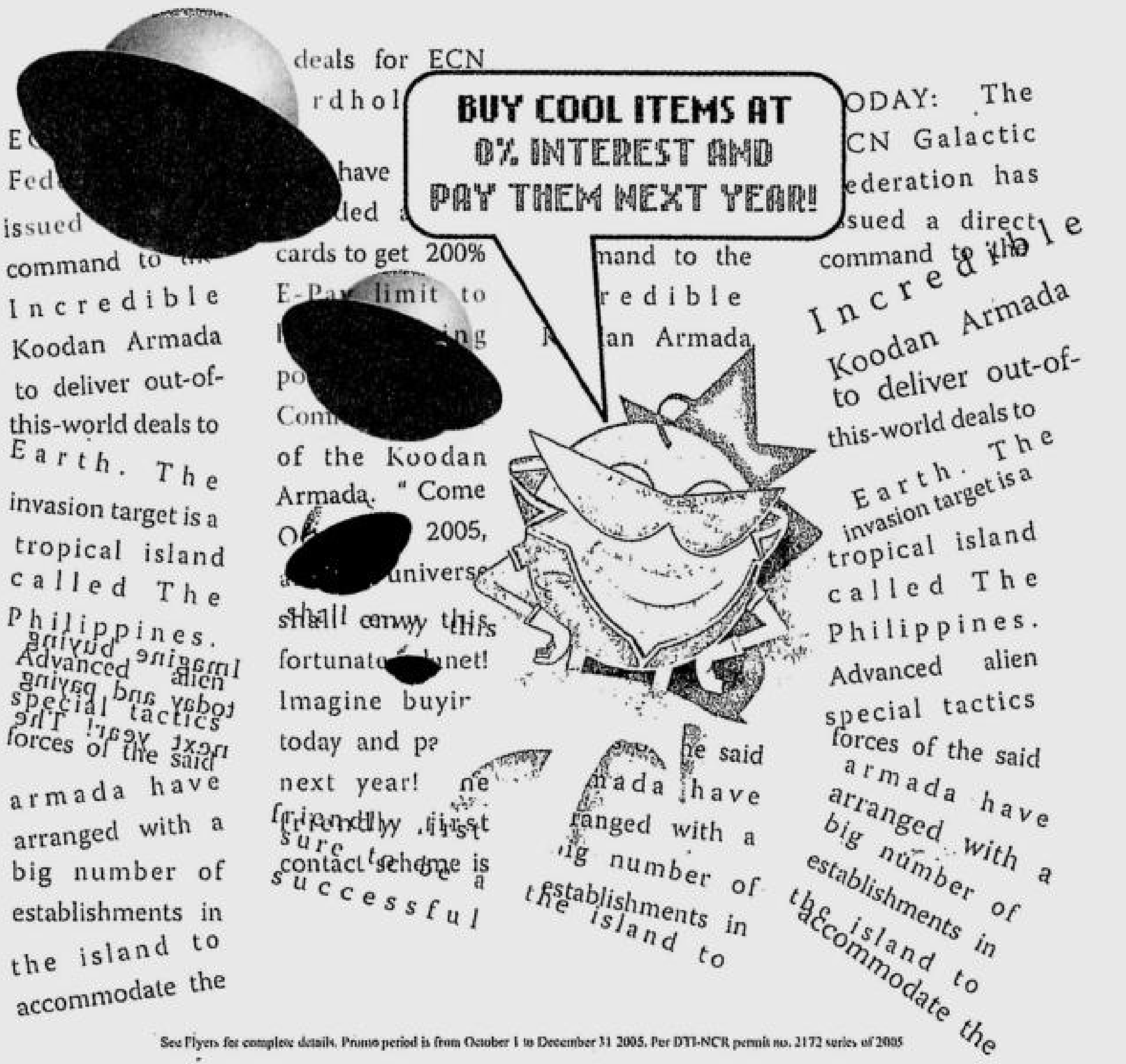
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ODAY: The CN Galactic ederation has ssued a direct command to the Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to Earth. The invasion target is a tropical island called The Philippines. Advanced alien special tactics forces of the said armada have arranged with a big number of establishments in the island to accommodate the

See Flyers for complete details. Promo period is from October 1 to December 31 2005. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2172 series of 2005

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DEPARTMENT STORE

Why INXS chose JD over MiG and Marty

By Nestor U. Torre

FANS OF FIL-AUSSIE "ROCK Star" finalist MiG Ayesa were disappointed last Sept. 21 when he was the first of the three surviving contestants in the grand finals to be eliminated from the competition. MiG was doing so well in the early rounds of the tilt, racking up the most "votes" from viewers. —What happened?

Grand finals

Well, during the grand finals, votes were no longer the issue, the INXS band's choice of the "right" frontman was. And, throughout the months-long competition, the bandmates kept expressing their reservations about MiG's suitability to them in this regard.

INXS is a rock band, so they were looking for a frontman who was a *rocker*. MiG was a gifted singer and all-around performer, but he wasn't really all that experienced as a rock performer—although he pointed out that he had sung in a number of rock bands in the past.

But, he was mainly a performer in stage musicals in Australia and England. This bothered the INXS bandmates, whose concept of "musical theater" may on the chi-chi and effete side.

They may have fretted that MiG could lower their band's rock heat and intensity. This needn't have been true, of course, since MiG proved when he performed "Bohemian Rhapsody" the week before that he could rock and shock with the best of them.

Frontman

But, even that prodigiously hot performance didn't convince the INXS jurors, since it was a *performance* (MiG *acting* like a rock performer). They were looking for a frontman who was a rocker to the very core of his being and they found him in—JD.

From the very start of the "Rock Star" tilt, JD and Marty came on strong as real rock types. They were rough, but they were ready, and all they needed was a lot of shaping up, refocusing, and astute coaching from the INXS jurors.

Eventually, it looked like INXS would go for Marty, because he was a real rocker, but he wasn't as "dangerously" moody and erratic as JD.

Toward the final rounds of the competition, however, JD got his act together—without losing the rock edginess that had made him stand out in the first place.

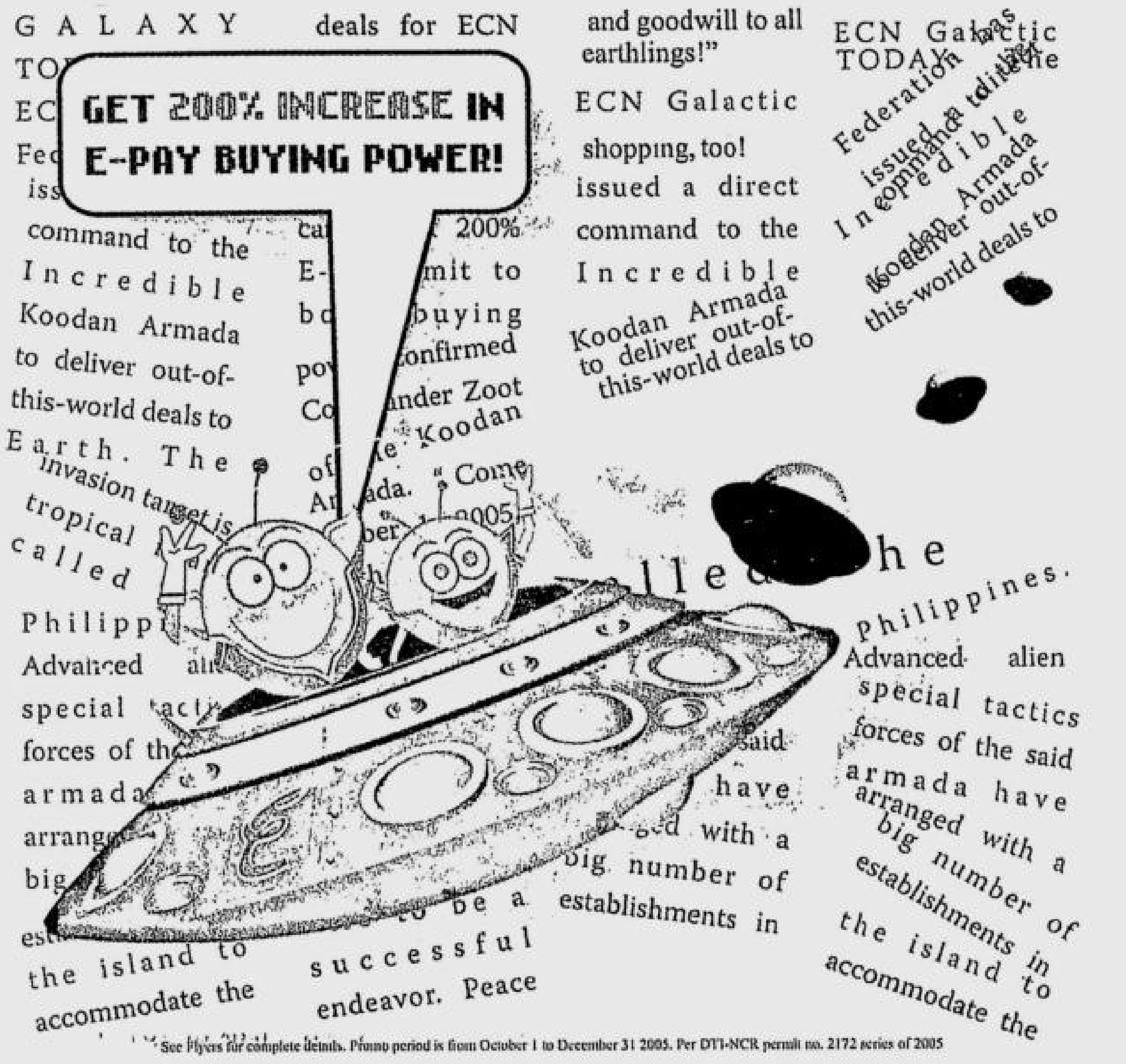
In addition, his songwriting skill impressed the bandmates. They would need it in their determined effort to get back to the top with their new frontman.

Tendency

What about JD's "dangerous" tendency to fly off the handle? It looks like INXS decided to risk that "danger" just to get the hot and wildly charismatic frontman it needs to excite rock fans into the next decade.

Marty will also front for INXS on its world tour, but what about "too nice" MiG? He may not be bound for rock heaven, but don't worry about him: With all of the exposure he's gotten on "Rock Star," he's sure to make it on his own!

JD. His songwriting skill impressed bandmates.


GET 200% INCREASE IN E-PAY BUYING POWER!

GALAXY TO[DAY] EC[N] Fe[d] iss[ued] command to the Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to Earth. The invasion target is tropical called Philippi[nes]. Advanced ali[en] special tact[ics] forces of th[e] armada arrang[ed] big est[ablishments] the island to accommodate the

deals for ECN ca[rd] 200% E-[pay li]mit to bo[ost] buying pow[er] confirmed Co[mma]nder Zoot of [th]e Koodan Armada. "Come [Octo]ber 2005 to be a successful endeavor. Peace and goodwill to all earthlings!"

ECN Galactic shopping, too!

ECN Galactic issued a direct command to the Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to

ECN Galactic TODAY Federation has issued a command to the Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to the Philippines. Advanced alien special tactics forces of the said armada have arranged with a big number of establishments in the island to accommodate the

See Flyers for complete details. Promo period is from October 1 to December 31 2005. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2172 series of 2005

Chinese maxims

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IT PAYS TO HAVE INSIGHT WHEN CONfronted with problems in life. Here are wise words from the book, "Chinese Maxims—Golden Savings of Chinese Thinkers":

"For a gentleman, the realization of the Way is like a long journey. It is like climbing a mountain, which must begin from somewhere low." (Real change begins from humility.)

"Sincerity is the center of good conduct." (Sincerity is the key to advancement in life.)

"He who oversteps his authority and uses his wealth to slight his superiors cannot last long." (Those who abuse power have no beneficial use!)

Trustworthy

"The words of a superior man are trustworthy. They are based on evidence—hence, he is free from complaints. On the contrary, the words of an inferior man are false and without evidence. Hence, he is troubled by complaints and blame."

(Strive to uplift your consciousness to benefit everyone. Remain rotten to the core and you will be cursed forever.)

"Don't harm public interest just because of a personal grudge. Never forgive mistakes because of favoritism. Never deny the goodness of those whom you dislike. These are fundamental principles of righteousness." (Leaders, these lessons are for you!)

"Those who are benevolent will be unfazed. They do not exploit authority. When they are left aside, they are not resentful. Though high in rank, they are not arrogant. When low in rank, they do not feel uneasy."

Teaching movie . . .

From page A3-3

since Ricky Lee, NUT, and the Film Development Council hold workshops that produce scripts that allow actors to put their best feet forward. I thanked Elwood and Dennis for the productive albeit last-minute experience.

After the workshop, Elwood insisted that I join his movie's cast. How did I fit into this group? As a drama lecturer, Elwood revealed, since the script "is still a work in progress."

After the first rehearsal, however, he wanted me to sing and dance *ala* Joel Grey in "Cabaret." It was then that I asked myself: "What did I get myself into?!"

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday October 1, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			The Working President	GSIS Member's Hour		UN Summit-PGMA		Paco Park Presents		Auto Focus	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Nginiig The Hidden Files		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quezon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
ABC 5	Mathzap		Junior Watch	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		Lizzie Mcguire	Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Mailing Mali		Ariel And Maverick	Memories Of Manila/ Inang Bayan		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest VideosKapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Ma'm Working	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot						Bitag		In This Corner			
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaluwalhatian		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Pinoy Big Brother	Gilmore Girls	Jack & Bobby	The Bachelorette		Studio 23 Present					Real Deal
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	MTV Live		Viva La Bam		The 70's House	Punk'D								Brand New		MTV Play	MTV Live
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		Mobile MYX Top Picks	Top Of The Pops	MYX Live!		MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart, Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN						Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Intl. Challenge		Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Intl. Challenge		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports													Sports Desk						
Cinemax	Christine (2:45 PM)				High School High			A Soldier's Story (6:50 PM)			The Hitcher II I've Been Waiting			How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days				Confidence (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Merci Docteur Rey				Walter And Henry				Dummy				Too Rich: The Secret Life Of Doris Duke Part 1			Too Rich: The Secret Life Of Doris Duke Part 2 (10:35PM)		
Disney Channel		Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Kim Possible	House Of Mouse	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	Dc On Assignment/ Legends	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		One Step Beyond	One Step Beyond	Zero Hour		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Gates Of Hell		Creature Feature				Foxes Of The Kalahari		Nulla Pambu	Leopard Rescue	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	TBA			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Grossazers	Justice League	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall			Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less			Fashion Trance	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion	8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter	I Dare You		Enterprise		The Kumars At No 42	Arrested Development/Less Than Perfect
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Six: The Mark Unleashed				Charlotte Gray				Nick Of Time			Timeline				Deadwood 07: Bullock Returns To The Camp	
Star Movies				Torn Apart (3:55 PM)			Hope Floats				Belly Of The Beast			The One			Underworld		
Cinema One	Slaw				Kuya				My Movie				The Sarah Balabagan Story				Yin Yang Master 2		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factory C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis in Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Teaching movie bombshells how to act

By Behn Cervantes

DENNIS EVANGELISTA CALLED ME from out of the blue: Could I please hold an acting workshop, he asks? Since I like the this erstwhile scriptwriter *cum* production manager, I entertain his request. "*Direk* Elwood Perez asked me to call you," Dennis explains.

So, why at the last minute? Who stood you up, I asked? Ana Valdes Lim held a previous workshop, but couldn't make it this time around. Since I respect Ana, a fine theater professional I worked with in Honolulu in 1991, I asked Dennis for pertinent details.

AUTHOR (LEFT) AND DIZON (SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH THE LADIES. Stressful but fulfilling.

Attitude

After tracing Ana to Assumption, I asked what had been taken up with the group. I didn't want to repeat anything, after all. After she indicated that she had not worked enough on "focus and group effort," I asked her about the general attitude of the group. After all, the participants included film bombshells Katherine Luna, Avi Siwa, Belinda Bright, and Allen Dizon, a hunk who has appeared in over 50 sex-oriented films.

I was not eager to involve myself in anything stressful. To my surprise, Ana was very encouraging. So, I finally said "yes."

On the appointed day, I proceeded immediately with a short lecture on theater to put the exercises in proper context. The participants were most attentive and cooperative.

As Ana noted, they didn't have inhibitions about their bodies. I discouraged them from asking questions, since their queries were oftentimes a delaying tactic that defused spontaneous reactions. I asked them to listen and react while being more sensually aware of stimuli.

Two rules

I gave them two rules: First, do *not* do what somebody has already done. Second, do *not* do the first thing that comes to your mind. That may well be the most predictable and banal.

My good-looking and sexy workshoppers quickly got into the mood and performed excellently.

When I bade them goodbye, I regretted the absence of good scripts that would have showcased the participants' talents. But, there is hope,

UNLIKELY/A3-2

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DJs Neil and Tracy of 99.5 RT show off their new Cuff watches from Nike Timing during the third stop of the FM station's Campus Crash tour. The event was held in conjunction with Freshmen Night, where popular bands Hale, Cueshe, Sponge Cola and Soap Dish entertained the crowd.

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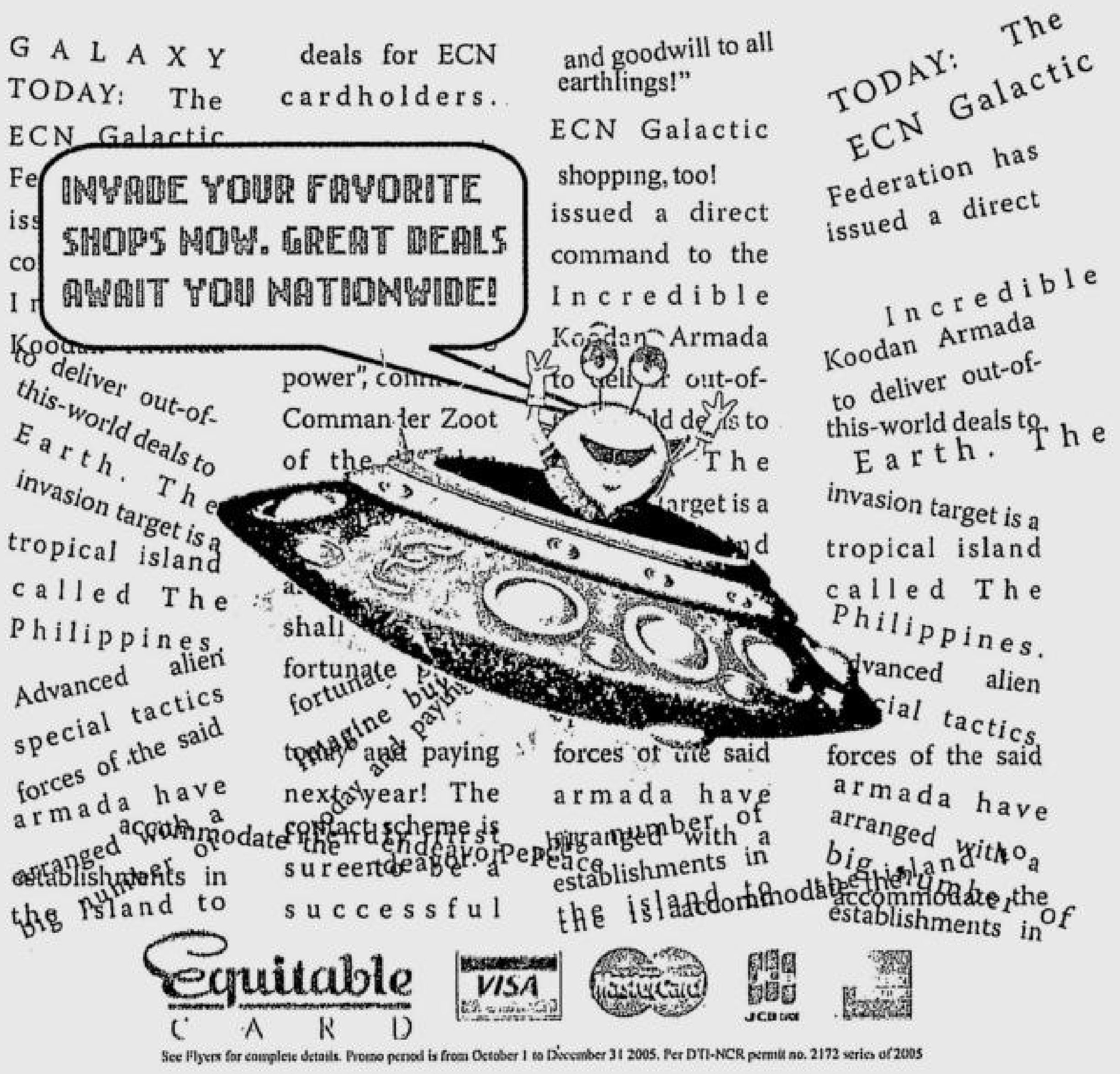
- ATC, ALABANG 842-9545 / 809-1726



GALAXY TODAY: The ECN Galactic Fe[illegible] iss[illegible] co[illegible] I[illegible] Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to Earth. The invasion target is a tropical island called The Philippines. Advanced alien special tactics forces of the said armada have arranged with a number of establishments in the island to accommodate the

deals for ECN cardholders. [illegible] power", Commander Zoot of the [illegible] shall [illegible] fortunate [illegible] today and paying next year! The contact scheme is sure to be a successful

and goodwill to all earthlings!"

ECN Galactic shopping, too!

issued a direct command to the Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to Earth. The invasion target is a tropical island [illegible] forces of the said armada have arranged with a number of establishments in the island to accommodate the

TODAY: The ECN Galactic Federation has issued a direct Incredible Koodan Armada to deliver out-of-this-world deals to Earth. The invasion target is a tropical island called The Philippines. Advanced alien special tactics forces of the said armada have arranged with a big island to accommodate the number of establishments in

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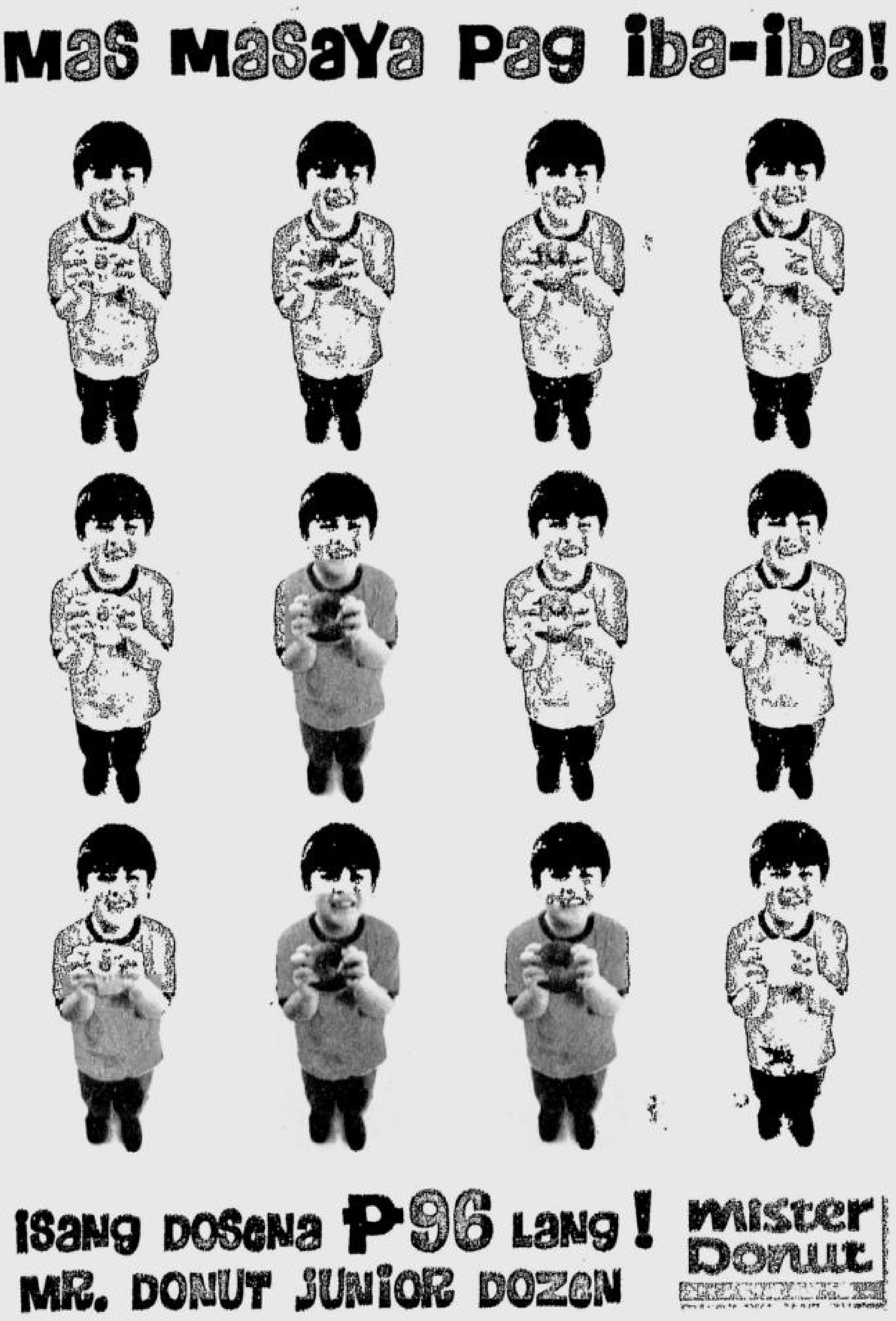

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For inquiries, call the 24-hour Equitable Hello Service at 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3264 (domestic toll-free), available seven days a week. You may also log on to www.equitablecard.com for more details.

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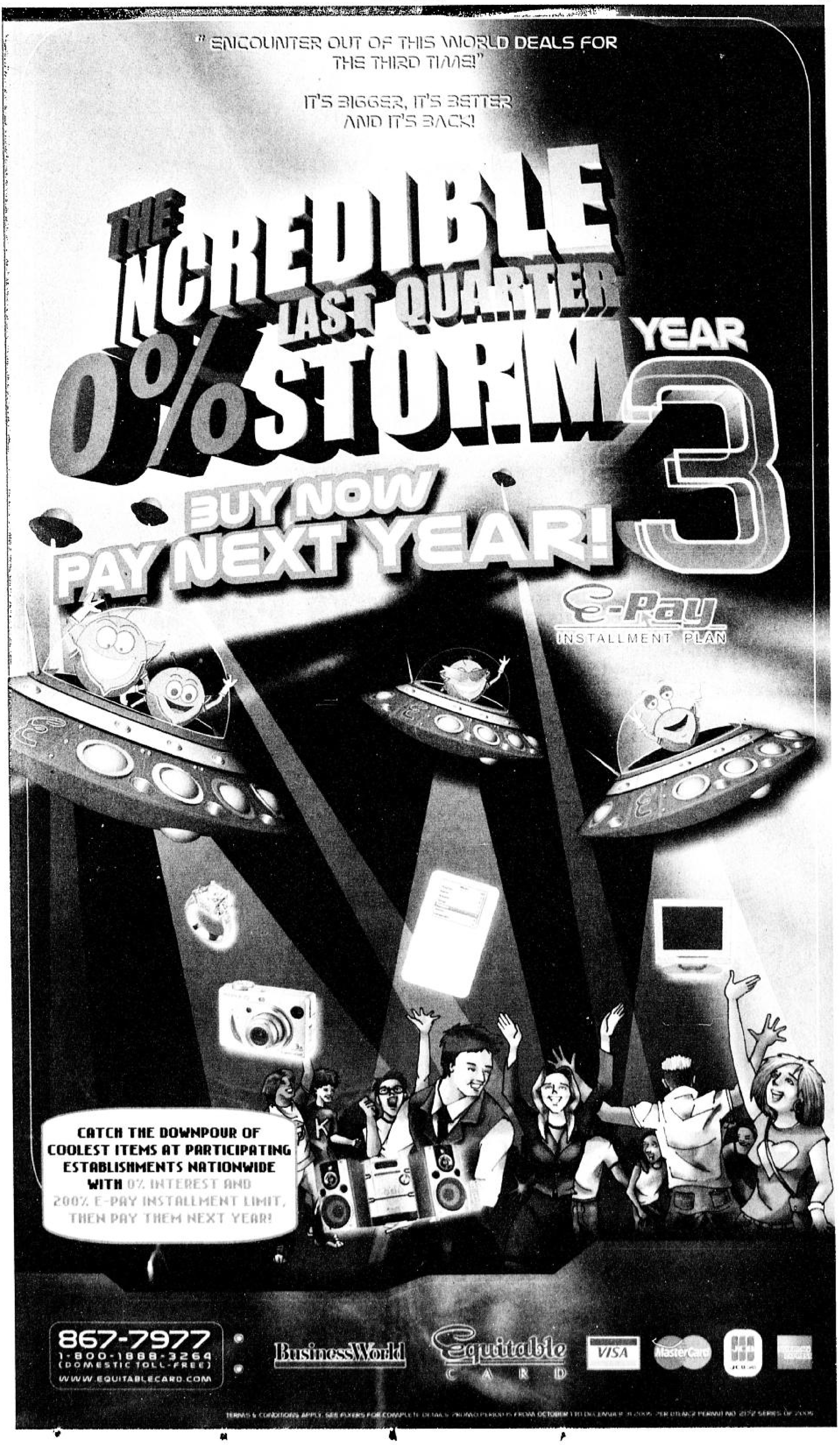
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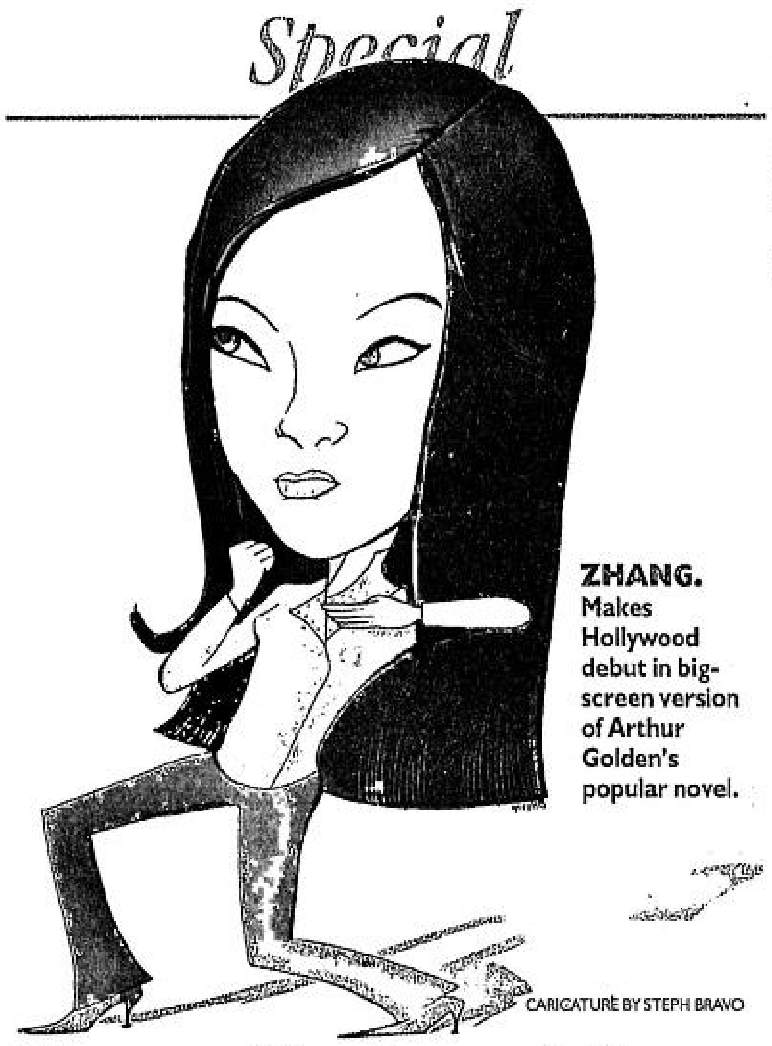


ZHANG. Makes Hollywood debut in big-screen version of Arthur Golden's popular novel.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Zhang, Yeoh and Gong play geishas in Marshall's latest flick

By Nestor U. Torre

OF THE MOVIES THAT ARE BEING produced this year, one of the potential standouts is "Memoirs of A Geisha." Filming finished recently in Japan (the final scenes were filmed in Kyoto) on Rob Marshall's ("Chicago") latest film.

Transformation

Its story is set in 1920s Japan, and focuses on Nitta Sayuri, who is taken from her home at age nine and sold to a geisha house. We follow her transformation as she undergoes training to become a geisha, learning how to dance, sing, play music, wear a kimono, apply elaborate make-up, pour *sake*, etc.

Eventually, she attracts the amorous attentions of two men—the chairman (Ken Watanabe) and Nobu (Koji Yakusho).

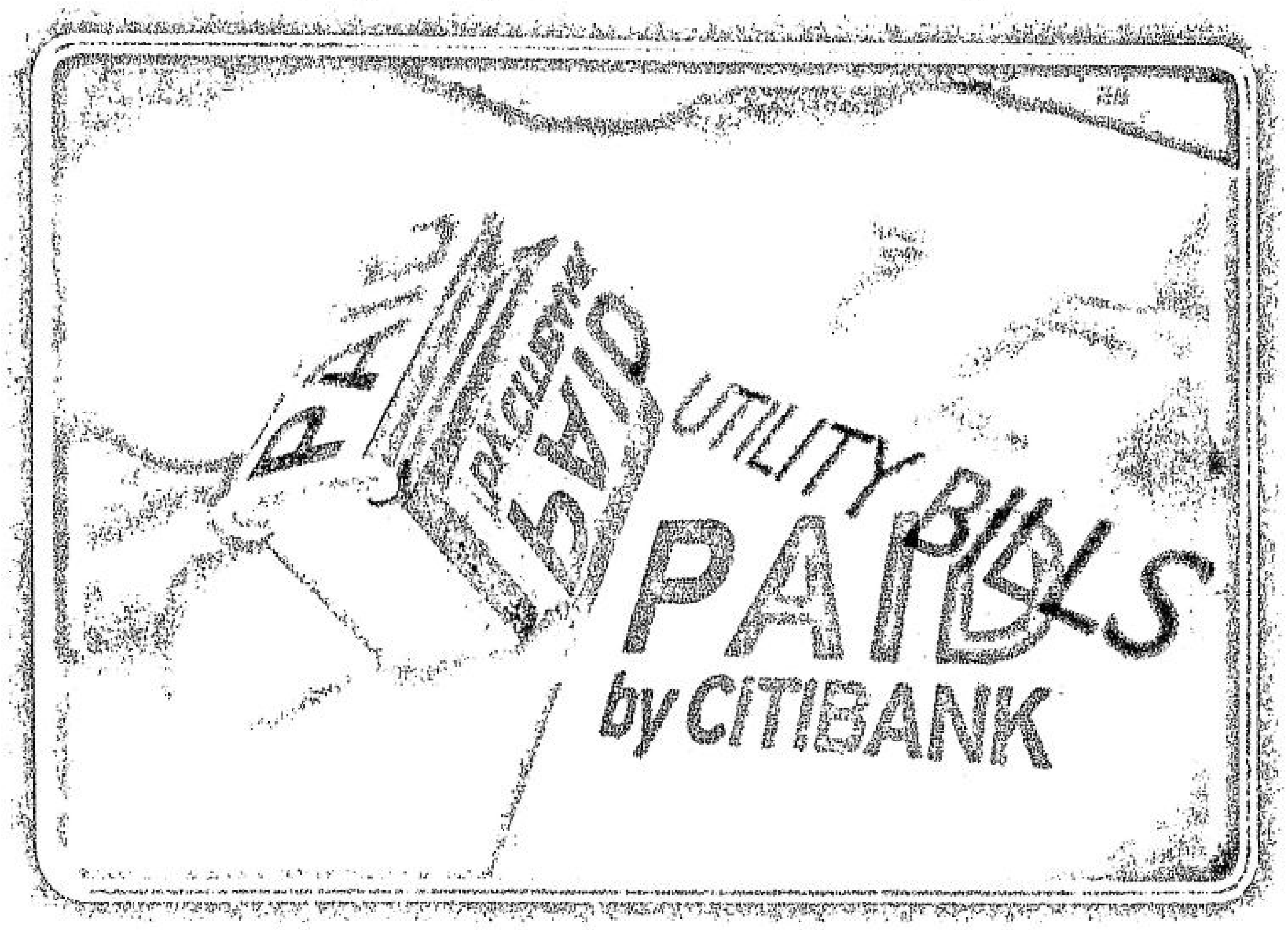
The film project became controversial when Marshall cast three non-Japanese actresses in its lead roles—Zhang Ziyi, Gong Li and Michelle Yeoh. Some people felt that this indicated that the production might not be a culturally or historically accurate film.

Great respect

But, Marshall assured them that he had great respect for Japanese culture, and asked the Japanese members of the cast to tell him when he got things wrong during shooting.

For their part, the non-Japanese lead actresses were initially intimidated when they were told that they were playing geishas. Gong Li said she didn't

ZIYI/ A4-2



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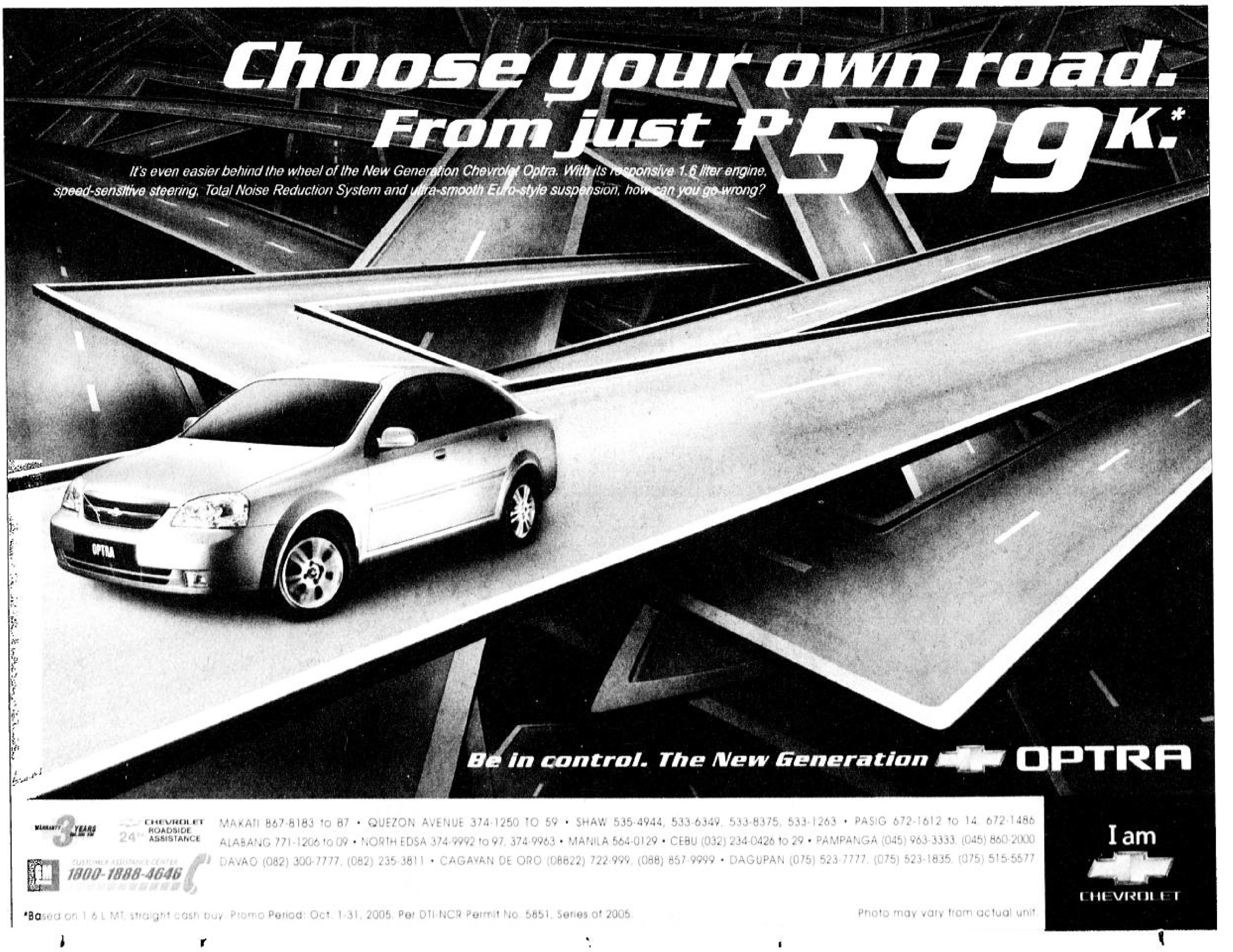

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'Lord of War'

IN HIS LATEST STARRER, "LORD OF WAR," Nicolas Cage plays Yuri Orlov, an alpha arms dealer to regimes suffering from sanctions. He also manages to seduce the woman of his dreams, Ava, who becomes his wife.

MONTAGE

Orlov feels constant pressure from his chief rival dealer, Interpol agent Jack Valentine. The weight of his multiple lives soon catches up with him. His brother is killed when a deal goes awry. Yuri is faced with the key question: How long will he remain useful to the US government so he can stay alive? Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan and Ethan Hawke also star.

Food special

The October issue of Mr. & Ms., the supermonthly of the Body, Mind and Spirit, features a special issue on food, with cover sweethearts Geneva Cruz and KC Montero leading off by talking about their food fetishes.

Other delicious features: Maricel Soriano's cooking skills, the healing power of biblical foods, recipes of the spiritual kind, psychic powers, sex as an experience of the soul, *feng shui*, Rica Peralejo and Joyce Bernal on their ghost stalkers—etc.!

Cinemalaya films at Promenade

You have until Oct. 3 to catch five of the hit Cinemalaya films on move-over engagement at Promenade Greenhills: Oct. 1 at 12 noon, short films. 2:45 p.m., "Isnats." 5;15 p.m., best film awardee, "Pepot Artista." 7:45 p.m., "ICU Bed #7," graded "B" by the Cinema Evaluation Board and starring best actor awardee, Eddie Garcia. 10:15 p.m., "Baryoke."

Oct. 2 at 12 noon, "ICU Bed #7." 2:45 p.m., "Pepot Artista." 5:15 p.m., "Room Boy," starring best actress awardee, Meryl Soriano. 7:45 p.m., "Baryoke." 10:15 p.m., "Isnats."

Oct. 3 at 12 noon, "Room Boy." 2:45 p.m., "Baryoke." 5;15 p.m., "Isnats." 7;45 p.m., "Pepot Artista." 10:15 p.m., short films. Call 722-4496.

'Let's Just Play'

From 2 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 2, Nickelodeon invites you to join its annual "Let's Just Play" worldwide day of play at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City. There will be games and other activities all afternoon, with fun prizes at stake.

On Oct. 2, Nickelodeon will also be preempting its usual programming to encourage kids to get out and have fun outside.

Sol Pico

The ongoing Spanish festival tonight presents the award-winning dance performance, "Besame el Cactus!" by Sol Pico, a contemporary dance group from Barcelona, at the Carlos Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

O'DONNELL AND MACDOWELL. Play sisters in Hallmark drama.

Sol Pico seeks to challenge the senses by using the body, voice, eyes, and rhythm in a mix of classical and modern dance techniques.

'Riding the Bus with My Sister'

This month, the Hallmark Channel's film treats lead off at 9 p.m. on Oct. 2 with "Riding the Bus with My Sister," the inspiring tale of two sisters (Andie MacDowell and Rosie O'Donnell), and the reunion destined to change their lives.

The death of her father prompts Rachel (MacDowell) to take care of her developmentally-challenged sibling, Beth (O'Donnell), whose daily journeys on buses lead to

LORD/ A4-3

Zhang, Yeoh . . .

From page A4-1

think she could do it at first, but after a six-week geisha "boot camp," during which they were taught dance, the Japanese language, and how to play the *shamisen*, she found it an unforgettable experience.

Authenticity

All the same, Marshall thinks it's appropriate to point out that "Memoirs of a Geisha" began as a novel written by an American, Arthur Golden, for American readers, so absolute authenticity shouldn't be expected.

Japanese actress Kaori Momoi agrees: "I realized that the story is told through the eyes of an American, and for the film further filtered through an American director's lens. In the end, I think this modern twist on geishas will appeal to younger audiences."

Marshall has the last word on the film: "The geisha world we're vivifying is beautiful and mysterious. A lot of people have forgotten or still don't know what geishas really are. Golden wanted to lift that veil in his book, and in our movie, we honor a world full of beauty, joy and heartbreak."

Also being talked about on the Asian film scene is "Blade of the Rose," the sequel to the Hong Kong 2003 hit, "The Twins Effect."

"Blade" is one of the Chinese movie industry's most expensive fantasy epics, with a slight reference to "Lord of the Rings," at least in terms of scope.

Prophecy

The movie sets its story in Huadu, an ancient land ruled by a cruel empress. In fact, in the entire country, women have total dominion over men. But, trouble threatens when a prophecy is made about a boy who will rise to seize power and restore control to the male regime.

Popular Hong Kong stars Charlene Choi and Gillian Chung join brothers Char and Leaf in a quest for treasure. Their journey leads to a master swordsman, who also wants to overthrow the empress.

Boosting the movie's star appeal is the special participation of Jackie Chan and his son, Jaycee, who's making his screen debut in the movie, which is currently showing in Manila.

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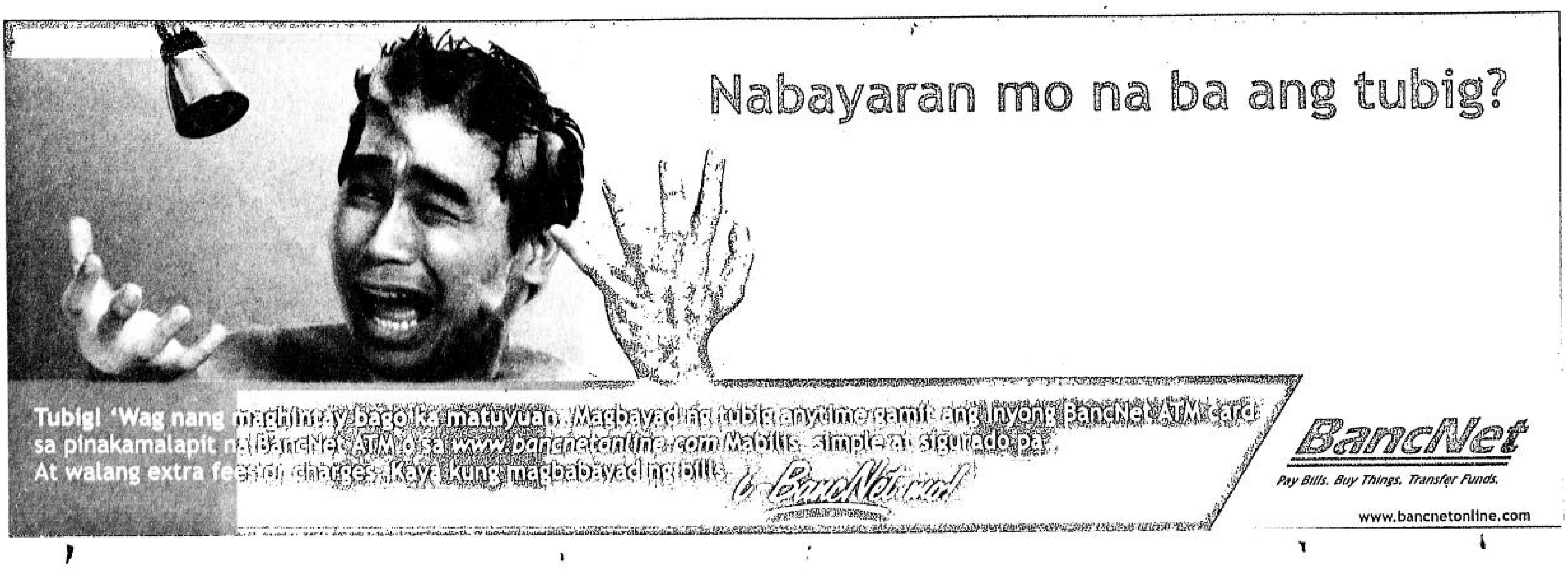

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'The Perfect Man' is bland, insubstantial

By Noelani Torre

DUFF. Should be told that she isn't 13 anymore.

WE'VE BEEN SEEING A GREAT deal of Hilary Duff lately, and the question that film lovers are asking is: Why? Honestly, what qualities does the ubiquitous Ms Duff possess that seem to make her irresistible to film studios?

Sure, she's good-looking. But then, so is practically every star and star-wannabe in Hollywood! And, there's always been something gauche in the way she carries herself. She's a competent enough actress, but she's not brilliant.

In fact, all the films she's done thus far are fluff, and they have a made-for-television quality.

Television personality

This rant against Duff, by the way, is the end result of having had to watch her latest effort, a romantic comedy, "The Perfect Man," where she stars with Heather Locklear, another television personality.

A tale about a self-centered mother and her equally self-centered daughter, the film's plot has Duff's character, Holly, concocting a perfect man for her desperate and perennially-dumped mother, Jean (Locklear).

The plot is creaky, the jokes weak, and the characters unsympathetic. The unbelievably ageless Locklear's bland acting is topped only by Duff's annoying perkiness. Will someone *please* tell the girl that she's not 13 anymore?

Moral

Believe it or not, this film actually has a fully articulated moral in it. "Oh what a tangled web we weave/ When first we practice to deceive"—Sir Walter Scott. This is written on a blackboard, just so we will get what the movie is about.

The movie's perfect man (played by "Sex and the City's" Chris Noth) is burdened with lines like "When a woman gets an orchid, she feels like she's floating on a cloud of infinite possibility." Eeek.

Funny

As for laughs, the only scene that was funny was when Holly and her archetypal brunette best friend were trying to keep Jean and the perfect man from seeing each other.

This movie is the fluffiest Hilary Duff vehicle yet—it's so insubstantial, in fact, that there's hardly anything in it that's grounded in reality.

Wholesome can be fun, sure, but in Duff's case it's boring. When is she going to make a movie that doesn't have such corny lines as "the moon reminds us that each day has the potential for beauty"?

Get a life!

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER BEING RAPPED ONCE MORE BY THE MTRCB, "Pinoy Big Brother" has been strongly defended by ABS-CBN on some of its other shows. We've listened to the defenders' arguments, and can sum them up as follows:

After the first warning from the MTRCB, the show has been following the board's guidelines, so it does not agree that new violations have been made.

No negative effect

It isn't true that, as its critics charge, the show has a negative effect on viewers, especially the impressionable youth. The show is aired at 10 p.m. Only a few young children should be awake at that time. In any case, the show has a "parental guidance" warning, so parents should supervise their kids' choice of viewing fare.

It also isn't true that the program is being made controversial to boost its ratings. It simply wants to show the *"totoong buhay"* in the Philippines today, to provoke a healthy discussion, so conservatives will face up to the country's social realities.

Thus, "Pinoy Big Brother" is only a mirror of how young adults think and behave today. People who are shocked, disturbed or turned off by the program are *"natatakot makita sa salamin ang kanilang sarili."*

In connection with this, the rhetorical question is asked: *"Hindi ba tayo handa na tanggapin ang nangyayari sa ating paligid?"* —Answer that at your own risk!

Other defenders say they like the show because "it teaches us how to get along."

So, people who criticize the show are *"hindi bukas ang isip."* The program and its defenders don't see any possibility at all that some of the show's critics *aren't* closed-minded. Their perception is biased and wrong-headed, period. —Well, who's closed-minded now?

For our part, we watched the show on its first week, and occasionally check in on it to see if our initial negative impression needs to be adjusted. We do see that the program is more careful now, but we still aren't comfortable with the show because it subliminally encourages voyeurism on viewers' part. Let's all get a life, shall we?

Concerns

Also, we continue to find the contestants' concerns, statements and actuations generally shallow, trite and boring. Even when they're being "daring" and "honest," they're predictable. Is *this* the *"totoong buhay"* in the Philippines today? Is the whole country destined to expire from boredom?

Thank goodness, our national reality is better and more dynamic than what we see on the local boob tube. If you insist on going "Big Brother's" way, spare us, please!

'Lord of War'

From page A4-2

Rachel's deeper appreciation for the pleasures of life that are often taken for granted. Directed by Anjelica Huston.

888 Fishing Place

The 888 Fishing Place bar and restaurant in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite will stage its second anniversary show at 7:30 tonight, featuring Feedback, 2nd Session and the Revive showband. Call (046) 434-0803.

GBOX reopens

Experience the thrill and excitement of an indoor amusement park with the grand opening of GBOX Amusement Center and Play Box Kiddie Activity Center at the third level of Robinsons Place Manila on Oct. 2.

Kim Atienza will cut the ribbon at 11 a.m., and at 1 p.m., celebrity moms Janice de Belen and Sherilyn Reyes and their kids will grace the opening ceremonies of the Play Box Activity Center. (Play Box is a modern child-care center where kids can play, socialize and learn in a safe environment.)

Then, at 3 p.m., meet and greet teen celebrities Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras. Call 631-7594 or 636-2911.

'KNN'

At 4 p.m. on ABC-5 today, "Kabataan News Network" focuses on the Manobos and Tirurays of Kidapawan City; the Pinyasan Festival in Daet, Camarines Norte; Neil Gaiman; and young people's thoughts on the legalization of *jueteng*.

Mr. & Ms.
GENEVA CRUZ & KC MONTERO

KC Montero and Geneva Cruz grace the cover of this month's Mr. & Ms. magazine.

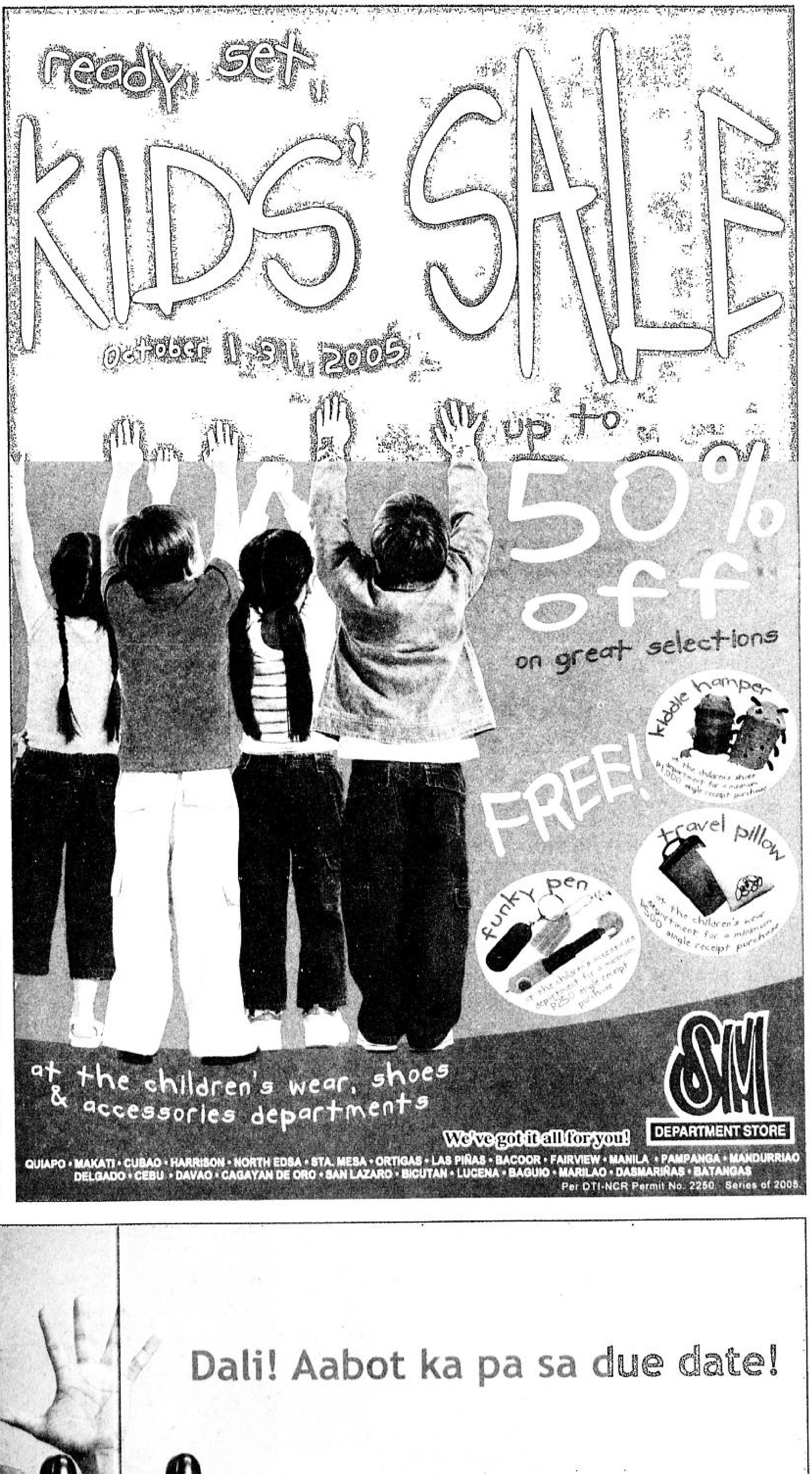
'Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo'

Sneak previews of the outrageous comedy, "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo," starring Fil-Am comedy star, Rob Schneider, will be held on Oct. 3 and 4 in selected theaters. The R-13-rated movie has been approved by the MTRCB with no cuts. The film starts its regular run on Oct. 12.

Movies on TV

HBO, Oct. 2 at 11:45 a.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces." Oct. 3 at 3:45 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." Oct. 4 at 11:30 a.m., "Charlotte Gray."

On Cinemax, Oct. 2 at 9 a.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m., "The Great Race." Oct. 4 at 6 a.m., "Framed."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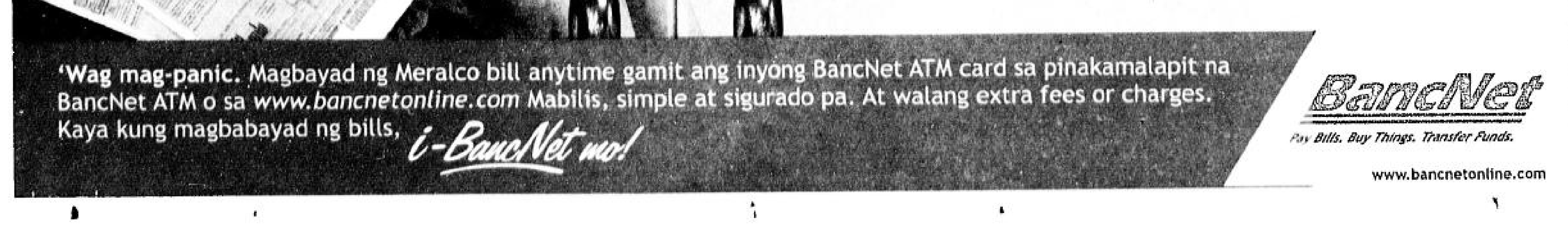
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Oasis	MORNING GLORY	103439
Foo Fighters	DOA	103494
Foo Fighters	TIMES LIKE THESE	103495
Foo Fighters	EVERLONG	103496
Foo Fighters	LEARN TO FLY	103497
Foo Fighters	ALL MY LIFE (CHORUS)	103498
Jamiroquai	FEELS LIKE IT SHOULD	103502
Jamiroquai	SEVEN DAYS IN SUNNY JUNE	103503
Jamiroquai	LOVE FOOLOSOPHY	103504
Jamiroquai	YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING	103508
Jamiroquai	LITTLE L	103509
Jamiroquai	CANNED HEAT	103510
Jamiroquai	DEEPER UNDERGROUND	103511
Jamiroquai	COSMIC GIRL	103512
Jamiroquai	VIRTUAL INSANITY	103513
Jamiroquai	SPACE COWBOY	103514

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Avril Lavigne	COMPLICATED	103109
Avril Lavigne	DON'T TELL ME	103110
Avril Lavigne	FALL TO PIECES	103111
Avril Lavigne	HE WASN'T	103112
Avril Lavigne	HOW DOES IT FEEL	103113
Avril Lavigne	I'M WITH YOU	103114
Avril Lavigne	MY HAPPY ENDING	103115
Avril Lavigne	NOBODY'S HOME	103116
Avril Lavigne	SK8ER BOI	103117
Avril Lavigne	TAKE ME AWAY	103118
Avril Lavigne	LOSING GRIP	103119
Maroon 5	HARDER TO BREATHE	103186
Maroon 5	SHE WILL BE LOVED	103187
Maroon 5	THIS LOVE	103188
Marpon 5	SECRET	103432
Maroon 5	SHE WILL BE LOVED (ACOUSTIC)	103433
Maroon 5	SHIVER	103434
Maroon 5	SUNDAY MORNING	103435
Maroon 5	THE SUN	103436

ARTIST	RING NAME	RING ID
Maroon 5	MUST GET OUT	103437
Maroon 5	SUNDAY MORNING (ACOUSTIC)	103486
Maroon 5	THE SUN (ACOUSTIC)	103487
Maroon 5	THIS LOVE (ACOUSTIC)	103488
Anastacia	I'M OUTTA LOVE	101459
Anastacia	ONE DAY IN YOUR LIFE	101460
Ben feat. Anastacia	EVERYTHING BURNS	103358
Franz Ferdinand	DARTS OF PLEASURE	101632
Franz Ferdinand	TAKE ME OUT	101633
Jeff Buckley	EVERYBODY HERE WANTS YOU	102179
Korn	WORD UP	101639
Los Lonely Boys	HEAVEN	101641
Rooster	COME GET SOME	103209
Rooster	STARING AT THE SUN	103211
The Calling	ADRIENNE	103216
The Calling	COULD IT BE ANY HARDER	103217
The Calling	WHEREVER YOU WILL GO	103218
Vertical Horizon	EVERYTHING YOU WANT	103225
Vertical Horizon	I'M STILL HERE	103226

ARTIST	RING NAME	RING ID
Vertical Horizon	YOU'RE A GOD	103227
Audioslave	COCHISE	101461
Audioslave	LIKE A STONE (GUITAR)	101462
Audioslave	LIKE A STONE	101463
Good Charlotte	GIRLS & BOYS	101492
Good Charlotte	LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS	101493
Good Charlotte	THE ANTHEM	101494
Good Charlotte	THE CHRONICLES OF LIFE AND DEATH	103355
Incubus	ARE YOU IN?	102139
Incubus	NICE TO KNOW YOU	102140
Incubus	WARNING	102141
Incubus	WISH YOU WERE HERE	102142
Incubus	MEGALOMANIAC	102143
Incubus	TALKSHOW'S ON MUTE	102144
Incubus	DRIVE	102177
Incubus	MAKE A MOVE	103360
Our Lady Peace	SOMEWHERE OUT THERE	102180
The Offspring	CAN'T REPEAT	103359

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Oasis	Don't Go Away	DNTGOAWAY
Oasis	Let There Be Love	LETHRBLUV
Oasis	Morning Glory	MORNGLORY
Oasis	Wonderwall	WONDRWALL
Jamiroquai	Cosmic Girl	COSMICGIRL

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Audioslave	Like a Stone	LYKASTONE
Breathe	Hands to Heaven	HANDS2HEAVN
Good Charlotte	Girls and Boys	GIRLSNBOYS
Good Charlotte	Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous	LIFESTYLES
Good Charlotte	We Believe	WEBELIV
Hoobastank	The Reason	DREASON
Incubus	Are You In?	AREUIN
Incubus	Drive	DRIVE
Incubus	Megalomaniac	MEGALOMANIAC
Incubus	Nice To Know You	NICE2KNWU
Incubus	Talk Show's on Mute	TALKSHOW
Incubus	Wish You Were Here	WISHUWERHIR
Nickelback	How You Remind Me	UREMINDME
Nirvana	Smells Like Teen Spirit	TEENSPIRIT
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE
Sept. inflation likely to hit 7% /B2
PCCI seeks ventures from Saudi Arabia /B3

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Finance chief warns against deferring VAT law

Credit-rating firms say postponement will be 'unfortunate'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE ENACTMENT OF AN "UNADULTERATED" version of the Reformed Value-Added Tax Law is crucial to prevent a further erosion of the country's credit ratings.

This was stressed by international credit-rating firms during their meetings with the country's economic managers in the United States last week, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said.

The credit ratings firms—along with foreign investors, creditor banks and multilateral financing institutions—were reacting to moves by some lawmakers to postpone the implementation of the controversial tax measure, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that she was open to its delay.

"They told me that this would be very unfortunate," Teves said in a telephone interview.

The country's credit rating indicates its ability to repay foreign loans, and determines how much interest it will pay on these borrowings. Influential firms like Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service rate the country's credit at "BB" and "Ba2," respectively, both of which are two notches below the official cutoff for junk-rated bonds.

Teves said talk about delaying the implementation of the additional VAT levy "disturbed" the international financial community.

Because of this, the finance chief met with President Arroyo yesterday in a bid to make her reaffirm her support for the crucial, but unpopular, piece of fiscal reform.

Teves said Ms Arroyo realizes the gravity of the situation.

"She told me, you won't hear any more of this," he said, referring to attempts by pro-administration lawmakers like Albay Rep. Joey Salceda to postpone its implementation.

Earlier this week, Ms Arroyo met with House Ways and Means Committee chair Jesli Lapus, Senate Ways and Means Committee chair Ralph G. Recto, and Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio to reaffirm her support for the law.

Due to numerous delays, however, Teves conceded that the government would be unable to meet the P28-billion revenue target from the VAT law this year.

"At best, we can net about P6

FINANCE / B2

RP's global competitiveness ranking slips

THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED TO LOSE ground against other countries in the battle for foreign investments this year due to rising corruption, poor domestic infrastructure and an inefficient state bureaucracy.

This was the conclusion of the World Economic Forum's latest global competitiveness ranking where the Philippines' rank slipped a notch to 77 from a field of 117 countries.

The survey affirmed the country's position as the least attractive investment site among major Asean member nations, three notches below Indonesia whose economy was ravaged by the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

The ranking is the result of a survey among nearly 11,000 business leaders from 117 countries worldwide—the largest poll in the organization's history.

Nordic countries and so-called "East Asian tigers" topped the global competitiveness rankings. Finland maintained its ranking as the most competitive country in the world for business, followed by the United States, Sweden, Denmark, Taiwan and Singapore.

Finland has maintained its top rank as the most competitive country in the world for four of the last five years.

Locally, the survey was administered by the Makati Business Club, an influential civic organization, which has joined calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in the wake of poll fraud allegations.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said his organization has been preparing the local surveys for the Davos, Switzerland-based World Economic Forum for "between eight to ten years."

"The trend over the years [for the Philippines' competitiveness ranking] is downward," he said.

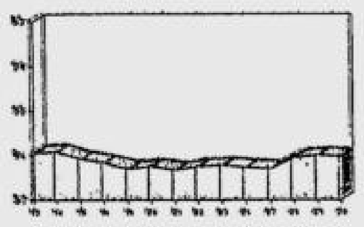
Apart from corruption, poor infrastructure, and a bureaucratic logjam, Luz said investors were also being turned off by "policy instability" as evidenced by frequent rule changes especially in terms of business contracts. Investors were also being deterred by government instability and rising criminality, he said.

The Philippines' competitiveness was badly

RP'S GLOBAL/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 56.01 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2005

¥ 113.28 = $ 1

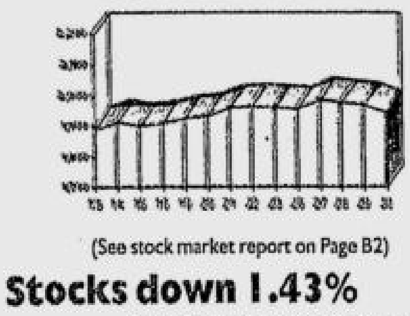
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2005

GOLD: 472.30-472.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 30, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



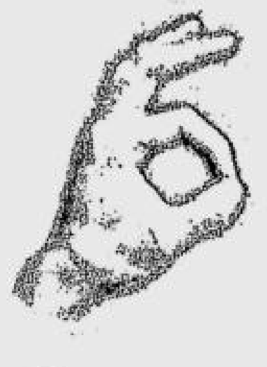
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks down 1.43%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.43 percent lower yesterday, extending losses for a third day amid persistent concerns over the political situation which offset gains in the regional markets, dealers said.

Tensions have increased since fresh hearings in Congress on allegations against President Macapagal-Arroyo that she cheat-

STOCKS/ B2



Pera

Close kami

Txt Txt

Aprub

Mr. Pogi

Isa pa nga

Usap tayo

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Sept. inflation likely to hit 7%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S INFLATION rate in September would fall between 6.6-7.1 percent from a year ago compared to 7.2 percent in August, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The mild deceleration is due to lower oil prices relative to August, and lower food inflation on account of good supply conditions particularly rice," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Headline inflation slightly increased to 7.2 percent in August from 7.1 percent the previous month as higher cost of housing, repairs and services overwhelmed the lower rates for food, beverage and tobacco.

The country's average inflation from January to August now stands at 8.1 percent.

Despite expectations that inflation would ease in September, the BSP is not ruling out further hikes in key interest rates before the year ends, in order to allow inflation to return to targeted levels by 2007.

The government has overshot its full-year average inflation target in 2004 and conceded that the 2005 and 2006 targets could likewise be breached.

Monetary authorities have vowed to continue monitoring prices and other macroeconomic developments, including liquidity conditions in the financial system and the narrowing interest rate differentials.

Last week, the Monetary Board raised the BSP's key overnight rates by 25 basis points for the second time this year, citing the need to ward off escalating inflationary pressures arising from runaway crude oil prices.

The key overnight borrowing, or reverse repurchase, rate was hiked to 7.25 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate to 9.5 percent.

The BSP's monetary tightening did not come as a surprise in view of the rise in global oil prices to over $67 per barrel, recent pressures on the local currency, as well as the US Federal Reserve Open Market Committee's increase last week of targeted funds rate by 25 basis points to 3.75 percent for the 11th straight session.

The MB recognized that supply-side inflation pressures could build up over the policy horizon given the likelihood of continued high crude oil prices for the foreseeable future.

The monetary authorities also thought that the recent growth in money supply might not necessarily be channeled into consumption and investment spending, given that growth in bank lending remained moderate and total demand was slowing down.

Clark sees $100-M boost in receipts

By Clarissa S. Batino

INCREASING FLIGHTS TO THE Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in the former military air base in Pampanga should boost airline receipts by about $100 million a year, said an official of Clark Development Corp.

"With additional flights to Clark, the Philippines will attract more tourists from China, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, and other Asian countries;" said Patrick Gregorio, vice president of CDC.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza earlier said that flights from Clark airport should increase to 50 a week starting October from the current 37 weekly with the entry of new airlines and increased capacity of existing operators.

Clark airport is expecting to double the number of passenger to 40,000 by next month from the current monthly average of 22,000, the transport chief added.

"This will translate to additional revenues of $8 million to $10 million in revenue for the airline industry every month, or close to $100 million annually," Gregorio said.

The CDC executive said the expanding operations of airlines in Clark would boost tourism not only in Luzon but all over the country.

"Our vision is to establish Clark as Asia's most affordable gateway, compared to other regional centers such as Hong Kong and Singapore," he said.

Domestic liquidity up 15% in Aug

STRONG INFLOWS FROM OVERseas Filipino remittances and portfolio investments in August perked up the country's domestic liquidity (m3) by 15 percent from a year ago, indicating an increase in the demand for money.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that the annual expansion in m3 at end-August to P2.23 trillion had outpaced the 13.6 percent annual rise at end-July.

On a monthly basis, the country's m3 also expanded by 1.4 percent in August.

Domestic liquidity, or m3, is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

The net foreign assets of deposit money banks jumped nearly threefold in August while the net international reserves of the BSP improved with the increase in its foreign assets combined with a decline in foreign liabilities.

Public sector credits grew by 7.8 percent in August.

Securities issued by the national government rose by 10 percent while credits to LGUs increased by 8.8 percent. Meanwhile, private sector credits expanded by a moderate 3.7 percent during the period. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Return to cinder

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AS THIS CUTE ADMINISTRAtion tries to finish the airport terminal called Naia 3 and, upon completion, hopefully open it too, I just have a naive little question.

Since we, the public, must pay for the project in the end, why can't anybody tell us just how much the whole freaking thing will cost us?

Reportedly, this cute administration plans to raise P20 billion to pay for Naia 3 at its present uncompleted state, with all the "under spec" equipment, materials, and such.

It's like buying a used car. You know, "as-is-where-is!" At least, when you are buying a used car, you can still test whether the wiper is running or not.

Without knowing what it is this cute administration is paying for, however, government may spend P20 billion—MINIMUM—for something that, on a good day, may or may not even withstand one loud solid sneeze from your mother-in-law.

* * *

ANYWAY, reportedly willing to absorb the risk of paying for Naia 3, thus saving this cute but broke administration several billions, is a private group called AEDC.

That's the Asian Emerging Dragon Corp., the original proponent of the Naia 3 BOT project under the administration of Kuya Eddie, aka President Fidel Ramos.

At that time, Kuya Eddie gathered six local taipans to do something good for the country, instead of their bringing out capital and investing it in China.

In 1996, they formed the AEDC to build a new "world class" airport terminal, each taipan putting in P100 million for AEDC's total paid-up capital of P600 million.

Enter the world infamous Piatco, which simply stole the project from the taipans in that same year 1996, only to start actual work on it some four years later in 2000.

Let's say you are one of the taipans, spurned by your own government in a multibillion-peso project that the same government asked you to volunteer to undertake.

Now, will you still have anything to do with the project, now that it has turned sour, even sourer than the face of Gloriaetta whenever the name "Garci" comes up in the news?

Well, AEDC is making a comeback, as it already presented its claim over the BOT project with the Department of Transportation and Communications.

The DOTC, from what I heard, did not just return the AEDC letter to sender. It is under serious consideration. The DOTC did not send the proposal to cinder.

* * *

ASIDE from that, I heard that the taipans are even willing to come together again, if only to give the project a final push.

Actually, after the government jilted AEDC on the Naia 3 project, tobacco magnate Lucio Tan already bought out the other five displeased taipans in AEDC.

Thus, Lucio Tan put P600 million of his own money in AEDC, an amount which is not exactly enough to pay the government for the unfinished terminal.

Word has it nevertheless that Lucio Tan may already be working on the re-entry of the other taipans into the project—at the very least two or three of them, most probably including Henry Sy of the SM group and George Ty of Metrobank.

That should signal the seriousness of AEDC in its bid to claim the priority project, particularly now that it has been long overdue. Oh, only more than five years overdue!

* * *

THIS is how the process may go, if the AEDC finally gets the project.

First, the government gets a favorable court decision on the expropriation of the Naia 3 structure.

The AEDC then pays the government for the contract to run the terminal.

If the courts decided that the discredited Piatco-Fraport group is entitled to compensation for the structure, the government then can use the AEDC money.

In that way, this cute administration does not have to worry about financing the Naia 3 takeover, which may require P30 billion or more.

Now, it is a rather simplistic scenario, I know, because in reality the whole picture gets a little convoluted with the entry of newspaper owner Emilio Yap, aka Don Emilio to his flatterers in media, business and government.

* * *

AS everybody knows, except perhaps the "Don," the Piatco-Fraport group is facing all sorts of criminal and civil cases over the Naia 3 project.

For one, the public perception is that, based on the Piatco-Fraport group's claim of $400-$650 million as project cost, the darn thing is pretty much overpriced.

Anomaly after anomaly also spiced up the project, based on the finding of the Senate blue ribbon committee.

We also know that, from the time it got the contract in 1996 to its actual start of work in 2000, Piatco took all of four years because it did not have the funding.

Fraport provided almost all of the money, for which this cute administration is investigating the Piatco-Fraport group for violation of the "anti-dummy" law.

In the expropriation case filed by the government against the group, it may end up without any compensation for its work on Naia 3.

The prospects of the group, in a way, don't look good. That's probably why they needed an influential person like the "Don."

* * *

WELL, through the Manila Hotel, which he owns, the Don already bought 20 percent of Piatco, and is said to be buying the 30 percent owned by Fraport.

Now I have a little naive question about the deal: Did the GSIS agree to the move of Manila Hotel to buy into the problematic project?

The GSIS owns 15 percent of Manila Hotel, even after the GSIS sold the hotel to the "Don."

Moreover, the "Don" has yet to pay the GSIS his P1-billion balance for the acquisition of Manila Hotel.

Perhaps the GSIS should have objected to the move. It could have asked the "Don," for instance, for payment of the P1-billion balance, before he should go into a problematic venture like Naia 3.

But then, GSIS may have little or absolutely no sway with the powerful "Don." After all, the GSIS funds only belong to its millions of members who mostly get the minimum pay in government service.

Finance chief warns against deferring VAT law

From page B1

billion, assuming that it comes into force by mid-October if we're lucky," he said. "More conservatively, we may see revenues of P4 billion to P5 billion."

The government was counting on as much as P60 billion in fresh tax collections had the law come into effect as scheduled on July 1 of this year.

Instead, Teves said fiscal authorities would only rely on VAT collections of up to P100 billion for next year's budget program.

In a separate speech before business journalists Thursday night, the finance chief said that government "should not be distracted by short-term developments" in its bid to reform the fiscal sector through painful tax measures such as the VAT law.

He said that high petroleum prices—Salceda's main reason for wanting to defer the tax levy—could be mitigated through other measures.

"While we understand the position of some legislators on this issue, the VAT is a long-term reform measure that is designed to help put our fiscal house in order and reduce the country's dependence on debt," Teves said.

RP's global competitiveness ranking slips

From page B1

hurt by a weak domestic economy, which is struggling under a a long-running budget deficit, aggravated by spiraling consumer and petroleum prices.

"We maintained our macroeconomic stability ranking, but we lost ground in terms of government waste or efficiency, and in terms of our credit rating," he said.

On the positive side, the MBC executive said the country improved its technology index ranking—both in public and private institutions—from a global rank of 61 last year to 54 this year, as more institutions began using automation.

"Our ranking in terms of innovation declined this year, but our overall ranking for ICT [information and communication technology] use went up," Luz said.

The survey aims to guide investors and business leaders around the world in allocating their assets from country to country.

"The question facing these people is if they want to go into countries with these problems," he said.

The World Economic Forum has been producing the Global Competitiveness Report for 26 years. In a press statement, the organization said its "unique mix of hard and soft data" has made it possible to accurately capture a broad range of factors believed to be essential for a "better understanding of the determinants of growth." *Daxim L. Lucas*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 30, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	14,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	1,048,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53	50.5	52	863,100
China Banking Corp.	640	645	640	645	880
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	1,000,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	66,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	1,433,800
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	57,400
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	15	14.75	15	77,000
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	90,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2920	2920	2920	2920	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	8,010
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2055	2055	2050	2050	410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14	24,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.95	3,230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	755	740	745	17,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	1,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	29,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	2,751,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1690	1690	1680	1685	140,790
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	86,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	21.75	20.75	21	516,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	8,040,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	2,622,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	188,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	91,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	730,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	500,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	1,136,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	218,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	157,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	37.5	36	36	147,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	65.5	65	65.5	100,900
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	94	91	92.5	47,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	295	295	287.5	287.5	34,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	193,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	21,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	4,060,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	700,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	300,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.6	9.3	9.6	26,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1	8,707,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,530,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.2	1,680,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	175,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	224,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42.5	41.5	41.5	1,742,700
House Of Investments Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	145,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.55	3.55	245,000
Medco Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,229,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	6,950,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	910,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	8,106,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.46	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	219	215	218	131,600
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	70,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	720,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.145	310,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	6,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.78	0.75	0.78	530,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.91	2,280,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.7	6.7	5.5	5.5	2,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	1,476,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,020,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	4,600,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.5	14	14	445,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8	14,685,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	3,940,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.165	0.165	8,560,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	13,750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.26	1.26	8,795,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.125	1,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,789,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	7.5	7.5	7.1	7.2	1,711,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	1	0.94	0.97	1,140,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	88,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	532,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,380,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	36,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	28,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.92	0.93	0.9	0.9	7,890,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.08	3,359,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	1,300,600
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	40,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	73,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	165,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	240,000

Stocks down 1.43%

From page B1

ed in the May 2004 election.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 28.12 points to 1,942.07 after trading between 1,935.62 and 1,972.71. Volume was 449.4 million shares worth P893.3 million.

The all-shares index fell 12.91 points to 1,182.49.

Losers led gainers 62 to 19, with 35 stocks unchanged.

"No news is bad news. Investors were also playing it safe ahead of the weekend given rumors of new destabilization moves against the government," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most active stock, was down P10 at P1,685.

Ayala Land Inc. gave up initial gains and closed down 10 centavos at P8.

First Philippine Holdings Corp. fell 50 centavos to P41.50 and Manila Water Co. Inc. retreated 10 centavos to P6.30.

San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares fell 50 centavos to P65.50 while its B-shares fell a peso to P92.50. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 30, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830427	1.000000	56.0550
Japan	Yen	0.007349	0.008850	0.4961
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463378	1.762200	98.7801
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107022	0.128876	7.2241
Switzerland	Franc	0.642248	0.773395	43.3527
Canada	Dollar	0.709100	0.853898	47.8653
Singapore	Dollar	0.491930	0.592382	33.2060
Australia	Dollar	0.630976	0.759821	42.5918
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.202841	2.652661	148.6949
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221335	0.266532	14.9405
Brunei	Dollar	0.490477	0.590633	33.1079
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020225	0.024355	1.3652
UAE	Dirham	0.226158	0.272339	15.2660
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204200	67.5014
Argentina	Peso	0.284880	0.343053	19.2298
Brazil	Real	0.372639	0.448732	25.1537
Denmark	Kroner	0.134037	0.161407	9.0477
India	Rupee	0.018895	0.022753	1.2754
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220331	0.265322	14.8726
Mexico	New Peso	0.076906	0.092610	5.1913
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573975	0.691181	38.7442
Norway	Kroner	0.127376	0.153386	8.5981
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013915	0.016756	0.9393
South Africa	Rand	0.130110	0.156678	8.7826
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000964	0.0540
Sweden	Kroner	0.107217	0.129111	7.2373
Syria	Pound	0.015997	0.019264	1.0798
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025033	0.030145	1.6898
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000387	0.000466	0.0261

CALL CENTERS provide P100 million a month in salaries for some 6,700 workers. PDI PHOTO

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, MINING

PCCI seeks ventures from Saudi Arabia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMmerce and Industry has sent a 21-member mission to Saudi Arabia to invite possible ventures in oil and gas exploration, mining and other priority areas.

Oscar C. de Venecia, vice chair of PCCI's international and trade affairs, said the group was working with the Philippines-Saudi Business Council for the mission that would run from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3.

Organized with the help of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Saudi embassy and Saudi business chambers, the mission would coincide with the 2nd Philippine-Saudi Joint Commission Meeting on Oct. 1-2.

De Venecia said the delegation would visit the cities of Riyahd and Dammam to establish contacts and strengthen existing linkages with their prospective business partners.

Delegates include business leaders from the sectors of oil and gas exploration, mining, real estate and construction, engineering, architecture, travel and tourism, food and agriculture, fashion accessories, manpower recruitment, financial services, cosmetics and leisure and entertainment.

"This endeavor would be be highlighted by the holding of the 2nd Joint Philippines-Saudi Business Council Meeting, one-on-one business meetings and visits to key industrial sites," he said.

The Middle Eastern kingdom is one of the country's top destinations of export earners such as coffee and furniture.

Late last year, the Council of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry sent a mission to the Philippines to further develop commercial ties between the two countries.

The Department of Trade and Industry had urged local businessmen to work with their Saudi Arabian counterparts toward forging a pact that would penetrate the Muslim country's $5-billion-a year halal food market.

Halal is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refer to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

With 1.5 million Muslims worldwide, the global halal food market averages close to $150 billion a year.

The DTI had espoused efforts to make easier the production and export of halal products, including the campaign to declare Southern Mindanao as a halal food production area.

Pasig school inks MOU with JFK Center

THE GOVERNMENT-RUN PAMANTASAN ng Lungsod ng Pasig has inked a memorandum of agreement with the John F. Kennedy Center Foundation-Philippines to train students in basic telemarketing, customer service and communication skills.

This is part of efforts to make the city a major hub of the call center industry that brings in P1.2 billion a year in income.

The JFK Center Foundation, which has a partnership with Client Logic for employee development, has also committed to coach students on how to conduct themselves during tough call center job interviews.

City Councilor Robert Eusebio said there were 12 call center firms operating in the Ortigas-Barangay San Antonio area, with an additional six companies applying for business permits.

Among the biggest call center locators in Pasig are Ambergris Solutions Phils., Inc. which employs 2,969 workers, Sykes Asia, Inc. with 1,200 employees and Client Logic Philippines, Inc. with 938 employees.

Eusebio said records from the city's business permits and licensing office showed that Pasig-based call centers bring in about P100 million a month in salaries for some 6,700 workers.

"A substantial amount of this income goes into the local economy through purchases of goods and services," he said.

"Even Pasig's property sector has benefited from the call center boom, with call centers occupying a total floor area of 31,483 square meters of prime office space," Eusebio added.

The official said the city has become a favored location of business outsourcing companies - mainly call centers - because of its location, accessibility to public transport, business-friendly environment and modern telecommunications infrastructure, such as fiber optic lines.

Further, he said Pasig's call center industry had also created a market for support businesses, such as convenience stores and food joints operating 24-hours a day to service the needs of call center employees.

"We already have the comparative advantage over other cities in Metro Manila and we are working to further enhance this," Eusebio said.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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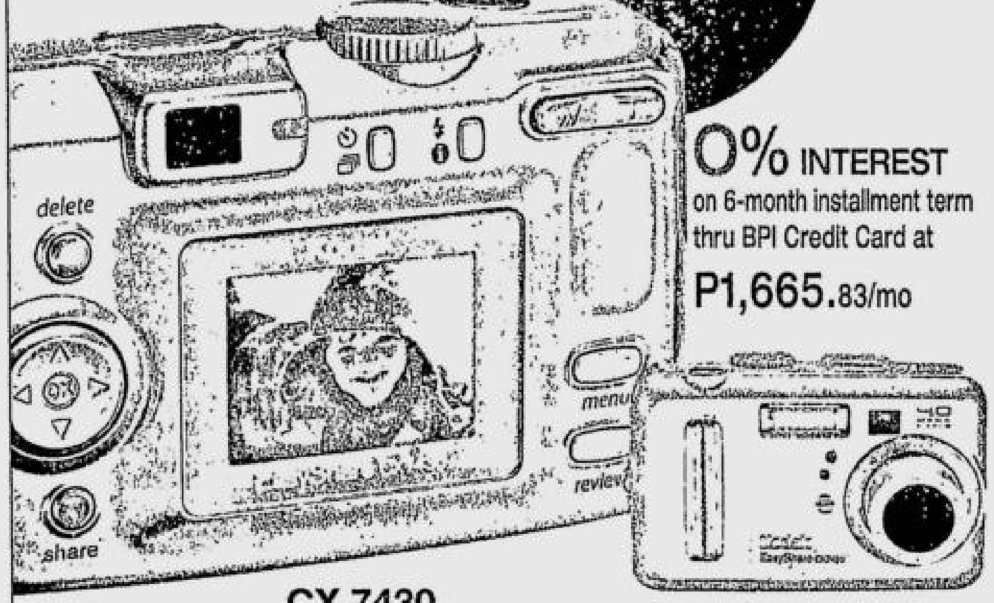

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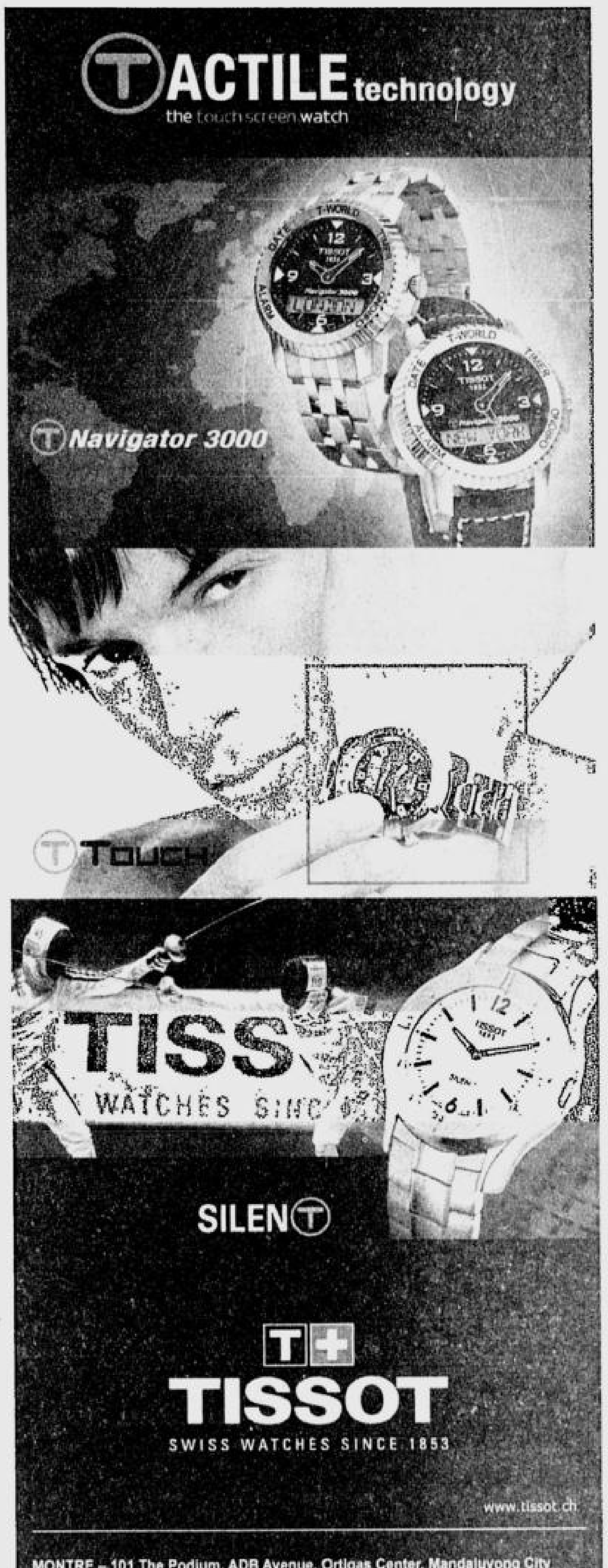

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Finding role models in RP's medical history

By Tessa R. Salazar

1898
1998
1¢
1900

CARDIOLOGIST WILLIE T. Ong and his wife Anna Liza, also a doctor, have been going over the country's medical history to find hope for the future.

They have so far collected 1,000 items, including photos and stamps of outstanding Filipino doctors, and Ong uses these to inspire medical students and young doctors belonging to the Movement of Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors (MIND) into finding their role models.

The medical history collection includes photos and stamps bearing the faces of the first Filipino female physician Honoria Acosta Sison, and the two who came after her: Olivia D. Salamanca and Maria Paz Mendoza Guazon. There are also photos of the first batch of medical graduates of the University of Santo Tomas and the University of the Philippines.

Ambulance

Photos of a 1912 horse-drawn ambulance and of the early days of the Philippine General Hospital are included in the collection. There is a photo and a book of Victor Heiser, director of health from 1905 to 1915, and a photo and stamp of Basilio Valdez, secretary of health and personal physician of then President Manuel L. Quezon.

An 1892 photo of a cholera outbreak, which lasted until 1904 that eventually led to 202,000 deaths, is one of the oldest in the collection.

Health news clippings from the Manila Times from 1898-1918 are neatly tucked into a portfolio, along with documents from the health department a century ago.

The collection also includes antique medical equipment.

Many of the items in the collection were found not in the Philippines but in other countries like Japan, Spain and the United States.

Medical museum

The collection, which is preserved at the Co Tec Tai Medical Museum on Taft Avenue, Pasay City, is supported by Ong's father Co Tec Tai and brother-in-law Tecson Alonso.

Ong started his collection in 1998, and eventually founded the Society of Philippine Health History in 2003 with fellow collectors Charity Tan, Mayleen Lazo, Aida Aracap and Doctors Rafael Castillo, Paul Bisnar and Troy Gepte.

Ancestors' teachings

Bisnar said their group aimed to encourage medical students and doctors to take an interest in the field of health history, preserve the nation's medical heritage and understand the lessons of the past to guide and inspire Filipino health care workers.

He quotes world-renowned anthropologist Victor D. Montejo who said, "Don't forget the teachings of the ancestors. In their paths we will find hope for the future."

Take a quick tour of the collections at www.sphh.org.ph.

How to help children do well in math

(Second of 3 parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST WEEK, WE STARTED listing down ways by which parents could help their children learn math. We were discussing the second tip: practice makes perfect.

Regular practice is invaluable in exams. Sometimes a student says, "I don't know why I didn't do well in the test. I understood every single thing in the lecture. I was confident I could do the test."

I believe this student understands the lecture clearly. But I am sure he does not solve many of the chapter exercises. Since he thinks he knows the topic, he doesn't find it necessary to practice.

Basics first

3. Understand the basics before going to more advanced concepts. Math is perhaps the only subject with a rigid linear sequence of topics one must master before others can come into play.

I once handled a third-grader whose parent wanted her to master fractions in two weeks. Since the little girl could not even add or subtract whole numbers with ease, there was no conceivable way to achieve that aim. We had to start from the basics, then slowly advance, a process that required months of work.

Take the case of Miguel, a scholar. He got into college even though he had a poor background in math. Although he insisted he studied very hard, he flunked the first exam. When I gave him a diagnostic test, I found out that his knowledge was that of a fourth-grader. We had no choice. For him to understand college algebra, we had to start from the beginning. We began with Grade 4 fractions, and worked our way to Grade 6 level. For several months we did high school algebra. We stopped when I felt he had the background to manage college-level work. To our relief, he got C+ in the first math course and B in the second. (The Ateneo math average is C.)

What would have happened if we did not go back to arithmetic? Miguel would not have understood college algebra, even if he studied his heart out.

Add a dose of fun

4. Make math enjoyable. Math is a hard subject, so a dose of fun is always welcome. To introduce the concept of decimals, start with play money. My son Scott loves Monopoly, and even if it will still be years before I introduce him to decimals, he is already exposed to the concept of pesos and centavos.

To tell time, use a real clock. Although plastic toy clocks are available, children find genuine objects around the house more fascinating. To teach them percentages, bring them to a restaurant and explain the concept of a tip.

Some specialty toy stores, such as Hobbes, Landes and Fundamentals, have good educational games, puzzles like classic brainteasers that can develop logic and spatial sense, and board games that help not just in math but in reading as well. I highly encourage parents and schools to utilize their materials to introduce children to the concepts of fractions, electricity, solar energy, among others. Store owners Edward and Monica Sy are committed to ensuring the quality, availability and affordability of their materials.

Practical side of algebra

High school math is certainly harder, but it should not be less enjoyable. Ask your teener to estimate how many kilometers the car can go on a certain amount of gas given a fixed speed. What happens if the car accelerates?

What happens if a kilo of *pili* nuts is added to a 10-kilo party mix of 25 percent *pili* and 75 percent cashew nuts? Draw them on a paper, add your own diagrams, or use a can of nuts. These topics are tackled in word problems, the bane of most students, yet it is the most practical side of algebra.

As for geometry, the possibilities are endless. With some clay or construction material, 3-D materials can be made. One father uses a Pringle's can to help his daughter understand the equation for the volume of a cylinder.

Many parents who teach their children say tutoring should be done in a "fun way" so school becomes an enjoyable experience.

A question of capacity

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

MA MI-MISS KITA! OKEY?
stephR.

WHEN A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN baseball player died in 2002, his son stirred up controversy by announcing that only the body would be buried. He claimed his father had wanted his head to be cryogenically frozen so that at some future date, when it was medically possible, his father could get a new body and live again.

The idea, while fantastic, is not new. Science fiction literature has mentioned the idea of people getting completely new bodies from head to toe, with a person's memories transferred from one brain into another. The implication is clear: the brain and its contents arguably define a person more than physical appearance.

Uniqueness of human brain

Bruce Lahn, assistant professor of human genetics at the University of Chicago, has spent several years studying what makes the human brain unique. His research is focused on a few genes involved in brain development that seem to have markedly evolved in humans over a fairly short period of time.

The Lahn lab has published papers discussing the roles of several genes linked with brain development. The Sept. 9 issue of the journal Science featured two papers from the lab, which discuss the genes microcephalin and ASPM.

Microcephalin, as the name implies, is a gene that can affect the size of the brain. For example, a normal brain is about 1,500 cubic inches in volume. In contrast, someone with microcephaly might have a brain capacity of only 400 cubic inches.

(It seems apt to mention at this point that some scientists argue that the Flores Island "hobbits" that made headlines last year aren't really a separate species of 3-foot-tall people with very tiny brains, but rather short humans who had microcephaly. One researcher who adamantly believes this borrowed the excavated bones to compare them with present-day pygmies to prove his theory. He later returned the artifacts damaged.)

For their studies, Lahn et al. sequenced the genes of approximately 100 human cell cultures obtained from the Coriell Institute. According to their website, the institute in New Jersey houses the Coriell Cell Repositories, which claims to be the "the world's largest collection of [living] human cell cultures."

Think of these cultures as hibernating cells, kept at very low temperatures to ensure that they remain viable for an indeterminate period of time. Cells from the cultures are used by scientists worldwide and represent many of the world's ethnic groups.

Genetic variations

Lahn et al. found alleles of the microcephalin and ASPM genes in a significant population of the cell cultures, which is a fair representation of the world's population. This is borne out by noting that the population breakdown the Lahn lab came up with for the alleles vary in ethnicity and region. Because the alleles were detected in so much of the (representative) world's population, Lahn et al. suggested that these specific genetic variations were evolutionarily preferred.

This implies that modern man's cranial capacity has been the desired size for sometime and is maintained by several genes working together.

The researchers calculated an approximate time period when these alleles came to be, although the range raises questions about their accuracy. They estimated that the microcephalin allele has been around some 37,000 years, give or take 20,000 years, while the ASPM allele is much younger, dating anywhere from 500 to 14,000 years.

Not last word

In a press release from the University of Chicago Medical Center, Lahn admits that their work on the two genes does not constitute the last word on brain size and human evolution.

"If we look at multiple genes, the ethnic variations, such as the ones we found, are likely to be counterbalanced by other differences," he said.

They note that the genes they studied also play roles in the development of other parts of the body, which could mean that the brain's size and function might not be the target but rather a side effect of genes at work.

The constant references to evolution suggest that now is a good time to look at the debate over the theories of evolution and intelligent design.

Next week, we will discuss Darwin, the cosmic power that creates, and the Spaghetti Monster.

Protecting families from vaccine-preventable diseases

By Charles E. Buban

IMMUNIZATIONS ARE NOT ONLY FOR children. Every year, thousands of Filipino adults are hospitalized for ailments like flu and pneumonia. And every year, a considerable number of them die from complications related to diseases that could have been prevented by immunization.

"Some adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will protect them for the rest of their lives," said Dr. Nancy Bermal of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

Bermal said vaccinations for certain diseases must be repeated periodically to maintain immunity. She also pointed out that some vaccines, like that for chickenpox, were not available when many of today's adults were still children.

There are also certain vaccines that are given to adults but not to children, she said. With aging, people become more susceptible to serious diseases caused by common infections such as flu and pneumonia.

Education program

Bermal said it is thus important to protect the whole family from diseases that can be addressed by vaccination.

"When adult members of the family get vaccinated, it also protects the younger members from getting sick. Children usually get sick because they catch the illness from their parents," said Dr. Millie Lozada, vice president for vaccines and pediatric business of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a pharmaceutical company.

DADDY KAYO NA MAN PO...
?
TRAMB.

Informed choice

Lozada said they recently launched their GSK Family Vaccines program, which embarked on an educational campaign so families could make informed choices about vaccination.

To date, there are over 200 private clinics tied up with the program. They aim to complement government health centers in informing families about the importance of immunization.

"Whether they get it for free at government health centers or at the clinics for a minimal fee, the important thing is that they save a lot from future medical expenses and sick leaves because of this preventive measure," said Lozada.

Vaccine schedule

The Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, the Philippi Foundation for Vaccination and th Philippine Pediatric Society, reco mend that children up to 13 (and co tinued up to 19) receive shots for B (for tuberculosis), hepatitis B, DTwP/DTaP (for diphtheria, tetan and pertussis), OPV/IPV (for poli measles, HiB (for bacterial meningiti varicella, MMR (for measles, mum and rubella), hepatitis A and influenz

For adults, the Philippine Society Microbiology and Infectious Disea and the Philippine Foundation for V cination recommend vaccination tetanus-diphtheria toxoid, hepatitis B varicella, MMR, pneumonia and fluenza.

Health care workers and trainees required to take shots for typhoid a rabies.

Link between global warming and tropical cyclones sought

By Emmanuel G. Anglo, Ph.D.
Contributor

(First of 3 parts)

WHEN HURRICANE Katrina devastated Louisiana and Mississippi last week, many observers were quick to cite it as proof that greenhouse warming was causing tropical cyclones to get stronger.

Such proof would hardly be news to Dr. Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who put forward the connection in an article in the August 2005 issue of Nature.

By his calculations, climate change has caused hurricanes in the Atlantic to become twice as destructive as they were 30 years ago.

Over the Western Pacific where the Philippines lies, the intensification is about 75 percent. After our own experiences with two major disturbances in November 2004, Emanuel's article doesn't need validation.

Empirical evidence too weak

But a team of scientists headed by Roger A. Pielke Jr. of the University of Colorado disagrees. Their article will appear in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

The article essentially reiterates the conclusions of a 2001 review for the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) by a meteorology dream team that included Emanuel himself. Pielke and his group maintain that while there may be theoretical basis for suspecting that greenhouse warming can bring about stronger typhoons, the empirical evidence is just too weak, and that our understanding of the physics of tropical cyclones is too rudimentary to make any such conclusions.

Dr. William Gray of the Colorado State University, arguably the biggest name in that dream team, also notes that it is impossible to distinguish between what is happening today and the natural variability that tropical cyclones have historically displayed. Present Atlantic hurricanes are strong because the basin is in a period of high activity that was last recorded around the 1920s, well before the first smoke-belching jeepney took to the road.

What do these two clashing articles mean to the Philippines, which typically runs out of letters of the alphabet to name its typhoons with? What do we know about climate change and its connection to tropical cyclones?

Basic facts

The theory behind Emanuel's prediction boils down to a few basic facts. First, tropical cyclones get their energy from heat released by large-scale condensation of water vapor, which finds an unlimited supply in the ocean. Second, the warmer the ocean, the more water vapor it releases.

Indicative of the importance of sea surface temperatures is the observation that hurricanes almost never form during winter and strike only the lower half of the continental United States facing the tropics. The Pacific Ocean, which is warmer than the Atlantic, has a longer typhoon season and a larger area for tropical cyclone formation.

What Emanuel constructed was a "destructiveness index" based on the recorded maximum velocities of tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and western Pacific. When he plotted the values of this index for each basin over the past 30 years, he found a clear and striking increase over the period.

More important, the graphs mimic the rise in sea surface temperatures in each basin. Results like this have changed the minds of the many undecided in the scientific community, including former skeptics such as Emanuel himself.

Yet many choose to remain cautious, particularly among those who find Emanuel's thermodynamic approach too simple to model a system like the atmosphere. The objections of Pielke's team is premised on the fact that other metrics of tropical cyclone behavior do not show dramatic changes over the decades that could be attributed to greenhouse warming.

No increase in frequency

For instance, the rise in mean global sea surface temperatures does not appear to have caused a similar increase in frequency over the decades as the theory might predict. Hurricane Katrina crossed the city of New Orleans to become the most destructive of cyclones to hit the United States in so many years, but it was not particularly strong.

One reason is that while a warm ocean is critical to typhoon formation, this factor influences only the first few hundred meters of a towering mass of vapor that can be 20 kilometers tall. A crucial requirement is the temperature profile of the atmosphere, which must be unstable enough for vapor-laden air masses to rise to the upper atmosphere where they can cool down, condense and release their energy.

The wind profile along the entire column must also be fairly uniform, or else the circulation will never get organized. Unlike the heating of the sea surface, it is not clear how global warming will influence these factors.

(The author is an associate professor at the Department of Physics of the Ateneo de Manila University. His research at the Manila Observatory covers urban air quality and regional climate change, focusing on its possible impact on the climatology of tropical cyclones affecting the Philippines.)

Are we prepared for a bird flu pandemic?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(Conclusion)

MEDICAL FILES

IF BIRD FLU TRIGGERS THE NEXT PANdemic, which is likely to kill millions, the virus would likely originate in Asia, Klaus Stohr of the World Health Organization Global Influenza Program said in a conference.

Pandemics usually occur every 20-30 years when the genetic makeup of a flu strain changes so dramatically that people have little or no immunity built up from previous flu bouts. The last flu pandemic was experienced 37 years ago. So we're overdue for another one.

"An [avian] influenza pandemic will spare nobody. Every country will be affected," Stohr warned.

How prepared is the Philippines in handling an avian flu emergency? Are we still free from the bird flu menace?

We trust that our local authorities are not taking the bird flu threat lightly. This flu is more potent and tricky than the SARS virus. Its incubation period is just two days, and infected people are spreading the virus the day before they get sick.

Our country is in the path of migratory birds. The chances that we're exposed to the virus is not farfetched, and if it does hit us we hope that we're adequately prepared.

Bulacan ducks

Bird flu has been reported to kill scores of people in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, China and Indonesia. We're lucky to have been spared so far. But how far can our luck hold?

A few months back, the first cases of bird flu in ducks were reported in Bulacan. Trading and eating of poultry were prohibited in that town for a while. But Health Secretary Francisco Duque and then Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap immediately assured the public that it was promptly contained and there was no cause for alarm.

Yap said then that early indications were that the strain was not deadly to humans. "It is a low-risk flu strain found in three healthy ducks and the risk to human health is almost nil," he said. Yap explained that the cases were confined to a "small isolated farm," and that it was placed in a three-kilometer isolation zone.

Samples were sent to Australia to see whether the Philippine bird flu strain was the same as that which caused human fatalities in the Asian region, but I don't recall any follow-up news on the results of the tests. *[Editor's note: The results said no highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected on the samples.]*

No vaccine stock

For a while, we slept soundly, assured that we were ready in the event of a large-scale bird flu epidemic in the country. Until an official of the epidemiology unit of the Department of Health was quoted as saying that the DOH has virtually no stock of the vaccine that might be needed to fight the disease and that no go-signal has been given to start procuring it.

Hopefully, the go-signal has been given by this time and the funds have been made available.

There is no reason to believe that we are going to be spared in the event of a bird flu pandemic.

We hope the DOH has put its bird-flu preparedness program in place and everyone has been properly informed of the preventive and contingency measures. We know the DOH does not want to cause undue panic on the citizenry and it's obviously also trying to protect our P150-billion poultry industry, but that can exact a heavy toll in terms of human lives in the end.

A provincial health official said the only bird flu action protocol he knew of was to immediately isolate any suspected infected person. But he has received no instructions on what to do before and after that.

I'm sure the DOH has a much more comprehensive protocol but this should be promptly cascaded down the line and to the public, and not kept as a reserve plan that would only be divulged when the proper time comes. The proper time was last last year yet.

Philips installs world's most advanced CT scan at St. Luke's

PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS RECENTLY completed the installation of its Brilliance 64-slice CT scan at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), making it the first operational 64-slice CT scanner in the Philippines.

The world's most advanced CT scan provides doctors and patients the gold standard in diagnostic imaging technology in the country.

The Brilliance 64-channel system offers wide-coverage submillimeter-thin slice imaging that allows unprecedented performance in new emerging clinical applications.

While it holds the same attributes for clinical performance enabled by the breakthrough 40-channel system, the 64-slice CT scan has additional coverage that results in significant clinical gains. These are in applications where time and motion management are specially critical like coronary artery evaluation, multi-organ trauma, pulmonary imaging and whole organ perfusion.

"We see the installation of the Brilliance 64-slice CT scan at St. Luke's Medical Center as fulfilling our mission of creating advanced and meaningful technology that enhances the lives of the Filipino people," said Med Mateo, Philips Group of Companies in the Philippines president and CEO. "We are proud to partner with Philippine hospitals in the pursuit of clinical excellence."

The Brilliance 64-slice CT scan brings to life Philips brand promise of "sense and simplicity."

As a healthcare, lifestyle and technology company, Philips is committed to deliver products and solutions that are designed around you (designed for a very topical need cardiac and oncology diagnosis), easy to experience (intuitive user interface and ergonomic design) and advanced (unprecedented speed and accuracy).

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Cure for gingivitis

IS THERE A CURE FOR GINGIVITIS? I AM ONLY 21 AND I'M AFRAID I would lose all my teeth.—Rose E.

Gingivitis is a disease where the gums become red, puffy and bleed. Your body sends blood cells to the gums because the area is dirty.

It can be treated through good oral hygiene and by visiting the dentist every six months for a professional cleaning. Brush after every meal and floss at least once a day. Your gums will be pink, tight and will not bleed anymore.

HEART WATCH

Cholesterol Management: Setting your bad cholesterol level goal

Heart disease is the number one killer in the world. The main culprit is excessive levels of bad cholesterol which may result from heredity, poor dietary habits and a very sedentary lifestyle.

When a doctor examines you to determine your propensity for heart disease, he checks the amount of bad cholesterol or low-density lipoprotein (LDL) in your body. Your bad cholesterol level may fall under any one of the following categories (in milligrams per deciliter of blood):

Less than 100mg/dL	Optimal or best condition
100 to 129mg/dL	Near Optimal
130 to 159mg/dL	Borderline High
160 to 189mg/dL	High
190mg/dL and above	Very high

Once your doctor has determined your bad cholesterol level, he has to consider risk factors like obesity, diabetes, smoking, excessive alcohol intake, physical inactivity to help you set your cholesterol goal.

This means that the cholesterol goal for individuals without coronary heart disease but with less than two risk factors is 160 mg/dL or lower while those with two or more risk factors is 130 mg/dL or lower. Individuals with coronary heart disease, however, should strive to keep their bad cholesterol level below 100mg/dL.

The first step to a healthier heart begins with consulting your doctor. Have him check your bad cholesterol level and determine your cholesterol goal. Then work with him to map out a plan to deal with your excess bad cholesterol. Decide to quit smoking and drinking excessive alcohol and start exercising, eating healthier food and avoid stressful situations.

If drug therapy is necessary to complement the lifestyle change, ask your doctor about the latest combination medication, Ezetimibe-simvastatin, offered by pharmaceutical giant Schering-Plough. This two-in-one pill provides a dual inhibition mechanism that targets cholesterol in the liver and intestinal tract.

And if you're already taking a statin, a drug that inhibits cholesterol production in the liver, ask your doctor about Schering-Plough's newest drug, Ezetimibe. This new pill inhibits the absorption of cholesterol in the intestinal tract. Combining these two will result in lowering bad cholesterol level equal to the maximum tolerable dose of a statin without posing threats to the liver.

Visit your doctor now. Set your bad cholesterol level goal and go for it.

A public service message from Schering-Plough

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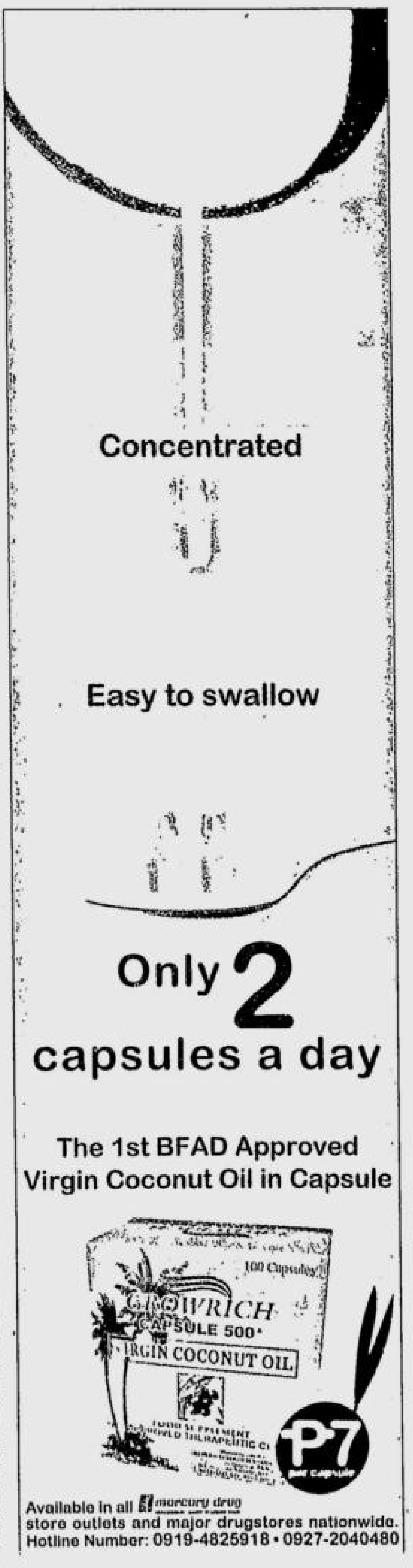

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Courier Services	P1,000,000.00	October 18, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 8, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
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Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	P502,500.00 At P3.35 per sheet of Bookpaper (For a minimum of 150,500 sheets)	October 19, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 9, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
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Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P6,499,500.00 At P30.00 per card (For a minimum of 216,650 pieces)	October 20, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	November 10, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.	P5,000.00

Only bidders registerd with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on October 4, 2005. Start of the issuance of Certification of registration to bidders shall be on October 18, 2005.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on October 4, 2005 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Cresencia Ignacio Santos who died on June 27, 2005 has been extra judicially settled by her heirs in an extra judicial settlement executed before Porfirio M. Bautista of Paranaque City on September 23, 2005 and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc# 172, Page# 35, Book# I. Series of 2005.
(PDI-Oct.1, 8 & 15, 2005

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LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

24 September 2005

To All Shareholders of Apex Mining Co., Inc. ("Apex"):

Please be informed that, on 23 September 2005, Mapula Creek Gold Corporation ("Mapula Creek"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, and Crew Gold Corporation ("Crew Gold"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Yukon Territory of Canada, filed the Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with Mapula Creek's intention to acquire ONE HUNDRED TWENTY MILLION TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO (120,260,972) Class "A" Shares and Crew Gold's intention to acquire EIGHTY FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FOUR (84,486,204) Class "B" Shares of Apex, the aggregate amount of which is equivalent to approximately twenty seven and 13/100 percent (27.13%) of the total outstanding capital stock of Apex, at sixty seven and 24/100 centavos (0.6724) per share, to be paid by check payment in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer. As of August 24, 2005, the total outstanding capital stock of Apex consists of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THREE (754,713,703) shares, divided into FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT MILLION NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTEEN (458,981,818) Class "A" Shares and TWO HUNDRED NINETY FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE (295,731,885) Class "B" Shares (collectively, the "Shares").

Shareholders as at 26 September 2005 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by Mapula Creek or Crew Gold, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of 26 September 2005 until 5:00 p.m. of 21 October 2005 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering shareholders should obtain a copy of the Application to Tender Class "A" Shares/Class "B" Shares and secure validation of their stock certificates by Apex's Corporate Secretary, Mr. Leonardo S. Gayao, at Ground Floor, Brickville Condominium, 28 N. Domingo Street, New Manila, Quezon City. Thereafter, the shareholders should accomplish and submit the Application to Tender Class "A" Shares/Class "B" Shares in duplicate, together with other requirements set forth therein, and tender their corresponding stock certificates to Union Bank of the Philippines (the "Depository") at [3rd Floor SSS Makati Building, Ayala Avenue, corner Rufino Street, [Attention Moises L. Almanon, Jr. with tel. nos. 8938584/8920011 loc 2353).

At any time before 5:00 p.m. of 21 October 2005, Mapula Creek or Crew Gold shall, at its sole discretion, have the right to reject or accept any Application to Tender Shares which is not completed in full or which lacks any of the required attachments. The Depository will accept the Application to Tender Shares on behalf of Mapula Creek or Crew Gold on the condition that the Applicant has been certified by Apex's Corporate Secretary as a shareholder of Apex as of 26 September 2005 and that the signature/endorsement on the Apex stock certificate(s) matches the signature on file with the Apex Corporate Secretary.

Mapula Creek or Crew Gold shall be deemed to have accepted for payment all Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn when it gives a notice of acceptance to the Depository.

Payment for the Shares so accepted is deposited with the Union Bank of the Philippines (the "Paying Agent"). Check payments to tendering registered shareholders of the Shares shall be made available by the Paying Agent for pick-up by the tendering registered shareholders within ten (10) business days from the end of the Tender Offer Period (the "Payment Date").

Tendering beneficial owners of the Shares are advised to consult with their custodians, fiduciaries, or other similar agents in relation to the manner of collecting payment from such agents.

In any event, no payment shall be made without the Depository having timely received the duly accomplished Application to Tender Shares, the duly endorsed and validated stock certificates evidencing the Shares and other documents required therein.

Any payment not collected within thirty (30) calendar days from the Payment Date shall be dispatched, via registered mail, to the recorded address of the tendering shareholder at the risk of the latter.

Tendering shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered Share(s) at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository before 5:00 p.m. of 21 October 2005.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms and conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1, the Terms of the Tender Offer and the Application to Tender Shares, may be obtained by the shareholders of Apex, free of charge, from the following:

Union Bank of the Philippines
3rd Floor SSS Makati Building
Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino Street
Makati City

Attention: Moises L. Almanon, Jr.
8938584/8920011 loc. 2352

Mapula Creek and Crew Gold confirm that sufficient resources are available to satisfy full acceptance of the offer to tender the Shares.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Leo Cleto A. Gamolo**
As President of Mapula Creek Gold Corporation
And
As the Authorized Representative of
Crew Gold Corporation

(PDI - Sept. 24, 29 & Oct. 1. 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building
Of Iloilo City/Iloilo Prov., Bais City and Saranggani

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-04-04816 dated December 15, 2004, intends to apply the following amounts, to wit:

Project	Location	PCAB License	Contract Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1. RD. Bldg. Iloilo City/ Iloilo Province	City Proper, Iloilo City, Iloilo Prov.	Medium "A"	12 mos.	P 12,000,000.00
2. RD Bldg. Bais City	City Proper, Bais City Negros Oriental	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P 3,456,000.00
3. RD Bldg. Saranggani	Capitol Compound, Alabel, Saranggani	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P 3,456,000.00

The same being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the above infrastructure projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

LRA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Iloilo City/Iloilo Province, Bais City and Saranggani. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for the eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **October 12, 2005**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A or R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who will be determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **October 3-6, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat at the same address on **October 7-12, 2005**.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain additional information from the Land Registry Authority and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October **25, 2005.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders who passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **October 20-25, 2005.**

The LRA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 26, 2005** at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD Bldg. Iloilo City/Iloilo Province	10:00 a.m.
RD Bldg. Bais City	1:30 p.m.
RD Bldg. Saranggani	3:00 p.m.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the above address on or before **November 7, 2005** at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD Bldg. Iloilo City/Iloilo Province	10:00 a.m.
RD Bldg. Bais City	1:30 p.m.
RD Bldg. Saranggani	3:00 p.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall then follow after each submission on **November 7, 2005**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

13 September 2005 at Quezon City.

(Sgd.) RONALD A. ORTILE
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure
5/F LRA Building,
East Avenue corner NIA Road
Diliman, Quezon City * Telefax No. 9244733

(PDI – Sept. 17 & Oct. 1, 2005)

Enn-ya Yakiniku Japanese Restaurant
is in need of :

Restaurant Manager

- Male/Female, not more than 35 yrs. old
- Atleast 3-5 yrs experience working as a manager in a Japanese Restaurant
- HRM or Business Admin. Graduate
- Can Speak Basic Japanese
- Can work w/ minimum supervision
- Honest and Hardworking

Please bring Resumé, NBI/Police Clearance and other credential at:

806 Arnaiz Ave.,(Formerly Pasay Road) San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City (Back of Makati Cinema Square)

INVITATION TO BID

Jollibee Jollibee Foods Corporation will conduct a SEALED BIDDING on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS involving following various equipments, like;

Manufacturing – Bread making line, Form-fill-seal & filing machines, Meat grinder, Extructor, Packaging conveyor w/ hoist, etc.

Refrigeration System – Chiller/Freezer/Blast storage, panels w/ insulation, Spiral & Tunnel blast freezer, etc.

Power Supply System - Gensets, Transformers, Switch gears, etc.

Air/Steam/Water Supply - Boilers, Air compressors, Centrifugal blowers, Deep well, Pressure tanks, Water tank, Waste water system, Water distribution system, etc.

Office Eqpt. – PABX communication system, Auto-CAD on-line printer

All interested parties are encouraged to do the following:

1. Registration & Ocular Inspection – October 3 to 14 except Saturday & Sunday, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
   Location Site: Commissary Plant #578 F. Pasco Ave., Bgy. Santolan, Pasig City
2. Pre-Bid Meeting – October 17, 2005 at 9:00 am
   Venue : 32nd floor Jollibee Plaza Building Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To register, secure guidelines & lists, and conduct ocular inspection of all items before the scheduled pre-bid meeting. Registration ends on Oct. 14, 5 pm.
2. To attend the pre-bid meeting before submission of sealed bids. Bid forms and dismantling plan template shall be distributed during the pre-bid meeting.

JFC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAYBE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMPANY. THE DECISION OF THE COMPANY IS FINAL & BINDING.

For Inquiries: Please call 646-6303, look for Ms. VILMA SANTOS GAPAN

(PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Interested suppliers/bidders are invited to apply for the following:

Specifications	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
1. Janitorial Services	P 2,170,698.84	P 2,000.00

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the BAC Secretariat office, 4th Flr. Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee. For any inquiry, please call BAC Secretariat at Tel. 374-8710 or 374-8514.

Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Oct. 11, 2005	On or before Oct. 24, 2005	Oct. 25, 2005

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER B. BUTIC**
Chariman, BAC

(PDI – Sept 24 & Oct. 1, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Operating metal fabrication company with more than 30 product lines on Housewares, Organizer Racks, Home and Office furnishings sold at appliance and department stores nationwide is inviting investors to take over and continue the bussiness with assets of P20M pesos. Please call 6453426; 6454681; 09178969535

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER PASAY 510-0915

Security Agency Operation Manager 0920-9209413 0919-3220871

FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT no exp needed can drive 6818696 / 2500254

American Trust Professional Services is in urgent need of
ACCOUNTANTS
to do trading and financial services:
Kindly email resumes at americantrustprosol.com

EXECUTIVE SEC 6954122

Massage Facial Attendant 0920-9209413, 0919-3220871

IMMEDIATE HIRING

REGISTERED NURSES

Pls. Call: MERCY FIGUEROA
at 930-4155; 935-5264
Ms. TESS SEGURA at 935-5262

BERNARDINO GENERAL HOSPITAL
#680 Quirino Hi-way, San Bartolome,
Novaliches, Quezon City
Zabarte Road, Brgy. Kaligayahan
Novaliches, Quezon City

We are an International Construction Business Company who is urgently in need of:

BOOKKEEPER

- Bachelor's/College degreee in Accounting
- 2 to 3 years working experience
- Honest, harworking and with pleasing personality

Interested parties may submit comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo to:

Unit B 9Flr 1680 Ramon Magsaysay Center
Roxas Blvd. Manila

FEMALE

Office Sec.23-30 yr. good Eng. Col Graduate Single.Inkg.o 890-8270

MALE/FEMALE

Dermatologist Newly Grad. 0920-9209413 • 0919-3220871

DEPED MARIKINA CITY OSEC DECSB TCH1-47643 47751

Experienced FUNDRAISERS For HOPE WORLDWIDE Email Resume at rmm_727@yahoo.com

Sales Exec 21-30yr. good Eng. Col. Graduate aggressive,Inkg.o 890-8270

MALE/FEMALE

INTERIOR DESIGNERS Com. Lit. Apply Dorothy's Beauty Central Greenhills 7213187 10-6pm Fresh Grad Welcome

WANTED: SALES REP COLLEGE DEGREE W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY ENTERSKY TRADING, INC. 241-4441 / 242-2404

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144 or
722-1155

8th Woodrose Family

BAZAAR

October 1 & 2, 2005
Cuenca Community Center,
Ayala Alabang Village,Muntinlupa City

Telefax: 842-9458 Trunkline: 850-6380 loc. 128
waa@writeme.com

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VISION PLAZA
41-42 Shopwise Arcade
Araneta Center, Cubao
Tel. Nos. : 911-27-24 · 911-27-13

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
City of Tacurong
Tel # 064-200-4050/3156-SKTSI and Tel # 064-477-0327-PLDT

INVITATION TO BID

1.) The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) is inviting all interested accredited suppliers to tender their bids on "MATERIALS ONLY" for the line construction of the project below.

Item	Barangay	Length of Lines (Km)		
		10	UB	OS
1	Expn. - Brgy. Malisbong, Palimbang, Sul. Kud.	5.090	4.156	1.445

2.) Deadline for the submission of sealed bid for Materials only is on October 10, 2005

3.) Submit sealed bids to:

The Chairman
Pre-Bids and Awards Committee
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
City of Tacurong

4.) SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative.

5.) Interested bidders may obtain the Bill of Materials and further information from the FOD or Engineering Department of Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc

(Sgd.) ENGR. DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI - Sept 30 & Oct. 1, 2005)

WANTED

Experienced PARALEGAL
Preferably LLB graduate
Knowledge in the preparation of Pleadings, Motions and other legal documents...
"Phil. Supreme Legal Advocate Inc.,"
Apply at : Suite 326 3rd flr. Doña Consolacion Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Araneta Center Cubao Quezon City

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OBITUARIES

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LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos : 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No 712-2702

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts…
On the Occasion of the
TENTH Death Anniversary of

DON EUGENIO S. BALTAO

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered tomorrow,
02 October 2005 at the following churches:

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL – New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH – Lantana St., Cubao, Q.C.	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE – Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:15 AM & 6:00 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH – Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF THE AIRWAYS CHAPEL – Ninoy Aquino Ave. Par.	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
MONASTERIO DE SANTA CLARA – Katipunan Road, Quezon City	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH – Aurora Blvd., Quezon City	7:00 AM & 12:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO – Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM & 6:00 PM
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE CATHEDRAL – Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART – Nueva Ecija Doctors Hosp. Cab. City	10:00 AM
CHAPEL OF MARIA ASSUMPTA SEMINARY– Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE – CRYPTA – Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM
PARISH OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP – Mabini Homesite Cab. City	5:30 PM
CARMEL OF OUR LADY OF NAZARETH – Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM
ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH – Subic, Zambales	6:00 AM
ST. FERDINAND CATHEDRAL – Lucena City	6:00 AM
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL Immaculate Heart of Mary – Baguio City	6:30 AM
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY CHAPEL – Baguio City	12:00 PM
ST. VINCENT PARISH CHURCH – Naguillan Road, Baguio City	6:30 AM
DON BOSCO CHURCH – Baguio City	6:30 AM
ADORATION CONVENT CHAPEL – Baguio City	6:30 AM
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE – Antipolo City	6:00 AM
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH – Antipolo Hills Subd., Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo	7:30 AM

The family requests the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of his soul.

IN LOVING MEMORY

One year ago, October 1, 2004
A loving devoted husband, father and grandfather

ENGR. TOMAS BANZON TUASON

Left this world to join our Creator
In His Heavenly Kingdom

His wife: **Rosemarie**, children: **Jonnabel & Rod, Windy** and **Zsa-Zsa**, grandchildren: **Ryan** and **Miguel**; brother and sisters and in-laws request relatives and friends to remember him in prayers on this day.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

Holy Masses will be offered today, Saturday, October 1, 2005.

Christ the King Parish, *Green Meadows Ave. Q. C.*	6:00 A.M.
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, *Katipunan Road, Q. C.*	6:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Parish, *Scout Ybardolaza St. Kamuning, Q. C.*	7:00 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish, *Lantana St., Cubao, Q.C*	5:30 P.M.
Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned, *Marikina City*	6:00 P.M.
Sta. Lucia Parish, *A. Rodriguez Ave. Manggahan, Pasig City*	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish, *Balanga, Bataan*	6:30 A.M.
St. James Parish, *Dapitan City*	5:00 A.M.
Sto Niño Parish Church, *Siari Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte*	10:00 A.M.
Sta. Teresita Church, *Polo, Dapitan City*	6:00 P.M.

HERMILO SOLIMAN G. TRIAS

January 13, 1937 – September 28, 2005

His bereaved wife **Georgie**; only son JP; daughter-in-law **Linda**; grandson **AJ**; in-laws, siblings **Caridad**, **Lulu**, **Edna** and **Joseph Piquero**; **Alberto** and **Mitos Diestro**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

His remains will be transferred to the Rosario Parish Church, Rosario, Cavite on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. Interment follows after the requiem Mass at 2:00 p.m.

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*"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." – **1 Thess 4:14***

DOLORES CELIS PINEDA

Professor – Retired Author of Typing Books

*Peacefully joined our Lord and husband **FORTUNATO** on September 28, 2005 at the age of 88.*

Her loving daughters **Cynthia Pineda** & **Evelyn P. Ryder**; son-in-law **Jason Ryder, Jr.**; grandchildren **Pamela Sue** and **Philip Edwin Ryder**; nieces and nephews and other relatives, request the pious reader to offer a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City

Cremation will be on October 5, 2005, at 12:30 PM at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

In Loving memory
on the 8th Death Anniversary of

RAMON C. TAN

(October 1, 1997)

of

Cainta Trading Co., Inc.

His wife, **Herminia**, children **Renato**, **Henone**, **Raul**, **Rosalinda** and **Ruel**, sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren request all his loved ones, relatives and friends to join them in prayers.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Concepcion

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the loan proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Concepcion, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project	Sitio 3 Brgy. Agnaga FMR with Overflow
Location	Concepcion, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget Cost	PhP 5,924,235.85
Estimated Duration	111 C.D

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 14-20, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 14-20, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 20, 2005
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 23, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 24-28, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	October 28, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 10, 2005, 10:00 a.m

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Concepcion, Iloilo, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800.00) to the LGU of Concepcion's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/Certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of BAC which is Php 59,242.36 and;
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of Php 148,105.89 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU-Concepcion, Iloilo.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php 3,000.00) to the LGU of Concepcion's Cashier.

The LGU of Concepcion assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EVA MAE V. PARREÑAS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the **SECURITY SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT-CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2006** with an approved budget of P6,187,264.68.

Interested bidders must register by submitting the registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting October 1, 2005. Deadline for registration is on October 17, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE shall be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 18, 2005	1:30 PM	Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Oct. 28, 2005	Between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	- same -
Submission of Bids	Nov. 9, 2005	Between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	- same -

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on October 18, 2005 from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila.

On October 28, 2005, bidders shall submit their eligibility documents in a sealed envelope to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The envelope shall be marked with the title "SECURITY SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT-CENTRAL OFFICE FOR CY 2006" and the name of the bidder in capital letters.

Interested bidders are required to submit their bids, personally or through their authorized representatives, on November 9, 2005. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3000 local 209 or 210.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 8, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Ajuy

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued

The Local Government of Ajuy, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract

Name of Contract	Sto. Rosario Proper – Cabarawan FMR
Location	Ajuy, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget Cost	Php 7,598,704.39
Contract Duration	116 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application of Eligibility	October 15-21, 2005
2 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 15-21, 2005
3 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 21, 2005
4 Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 22, 2005
5 Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27 – Nov 2, 2005
6 Pre-bid Conference	October 28, 2005, 1:30 PM
7 Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 11, 2005, 1:30 PM

The BAC will issue to the prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Ajuy, Iloilo upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800.00) to the LGU of Ajuy's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms

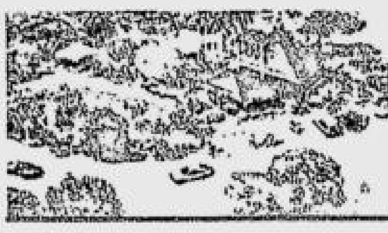
1. Cash/Certified Check/cashier's check manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P75,987.04 and,
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P 189,967.61 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU – Ajuy, Iloilo

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos only (P 3,000.00) to the LGU of Ajuy's Cashier

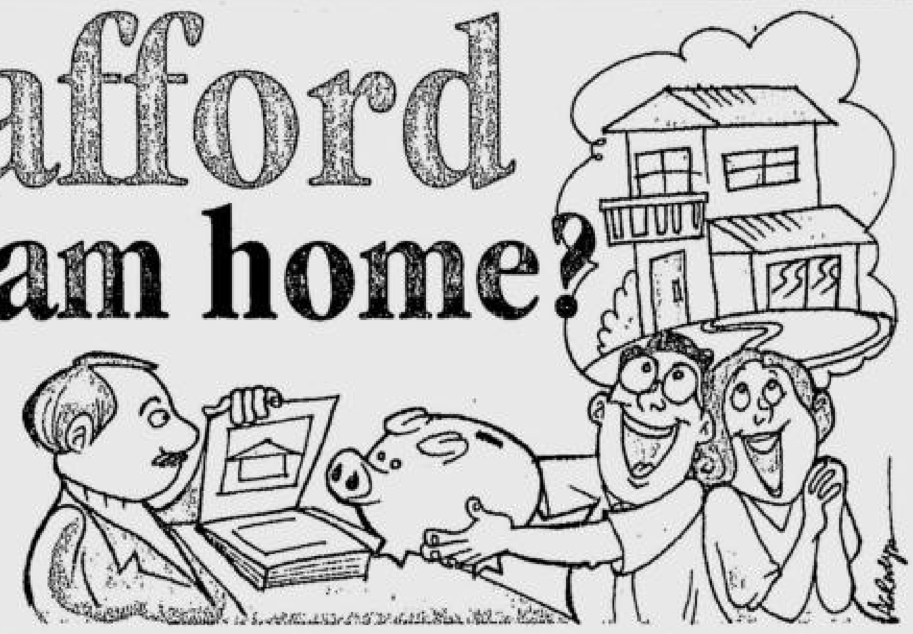
The LGU of Ajuy assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

(Sgd.) **NILO T. HINOJALES**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct 1 & 8, 2005)



Can you really afford to buy your dream home?



By Tessa R. Salazar

MANY PEOPLE WOULD like to buy their dream house but only a few can pay cash. The good news is that there are a slew of payment options these days when it comes to prospective house buyers.

If you ask expert house brokers, they would tell you outright that you have to depend on the availability of affordable financing programs and being qualified to borrow.

Real estate broker Enrico S. Cruz of United Realty Brokers and Appraisers Network (Urbanet) advises people that although there are numerous private, traditional and government subsidized housing loan programs, one should be aware of the pros and cons of each loan alternative to be able to choose a financing program that would suit the buyer and his capacity to pay.

Cruz said there are ways to avoid the common mistakes of borrowing and avoid the unpleasant event of being cheated or worse, of incurring default and facing foreclosure or forfeiture and contract cancellation in case of installment financing.

Securing a housing loan

During his lecture to prospective home buyers, Cruz outlined the following tips on securing a housing loan:

- Making as much as possible the highest down payment you can afford. Cruz said the higher the down payment, the lower is the interest rate. The less your down payment will be, the higher the interest.
- Before applying for the loan, limit long-term debts and have a good paying record.
- See to it that the property you are purchasing is really worth much more than the loan.
- Borrowers with good credit are in an excellent bargaining position because banks are after borrowers with good credit standing.

"If you have credit problems, take the steps to clean up or rebuild your credit before, not after, you apply for a mortgage," he said.

- Gather information on mortgage rates and fees. This is very essential.
- Get the services of a loan broker.

"Another approach to looking for a loan after doing your preliminary work is to hire a loan broker, a person who specializes in matching house buyers and appropriate mortgage lenders. If you qualify financially, a loan broker can find you a competitively priced mortgage that meets your needs," said Cruz.

He added that loan brokers usually are licensed real estate brokers. They often don't charge for their services, as they're paid by the lender for preparing routine loan applications.

"If your situation is somewhat complicated, for example, you need help selling your property before you start purchasing, you may be charged a fee. So it is always wise to ask beforehand if you'll be charged, and if so, how much will be charged," he said.

Options

ERA Philippines consultant Eric Soriano said that with the highly competitive real estate market in the country today, home buyers are presented with a whole menu of payment options designed for your different needs.

Soriano, added, that one's decision should first be based on what one can afford, now and in the future.

"Consider all the charges that come with purchasing a real estate property—taxes, documentation charges and other miscellaneous expenses," he said.

Soriano enumerated payment options such as down payment with low monthly amortization. He added that lucky are those who have saved up some amount because they can choose this option with the advantage of lower monthly amortization and shorter terms.

But for buyers who currently have the capacity to make substantial monthly payments but who do not have the savings or would rather put their savings in other more pressing requirements, the way to go is payment options without down payment. In this scheme, no substantial cash out is required.

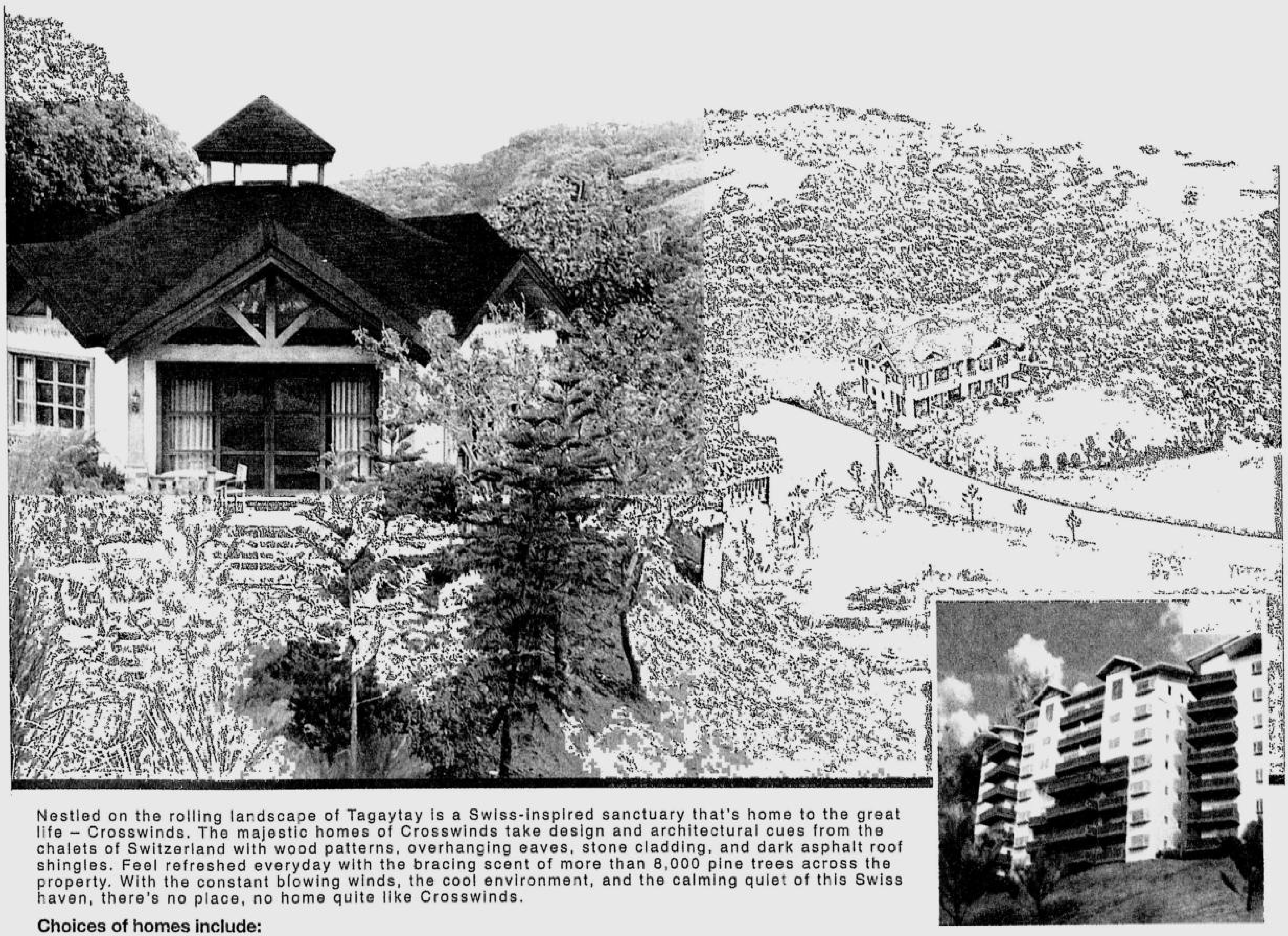
Another option is the lease-to-own scheme for buyers who prefer to pay the current rental prices and would rather defer the larger payments to a later date. "In this case," he said, "a manageable down payment is required while monthly rates for the next two years are applied."

The homebuyer can also choose an in-house financing for developer-owned property. Soriano said this type of scheme has less rigid requirements and may offer fixed interest rates for an extended period of time.

"You can also source funds from any of the country's financial institutions usually requiring 30 percent equity for the property. These institutions often offer longer payment periods as well as highly competitive interest rates," said Soriano.

Bank financing and financing through state-run agencies could be Government Services Insurance System, Pag-Ibig fund and the Social Security System.

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay: A Swiss Sanctuary



The Crosswinds *Grand Quartier*™

Nestled on the rolling landscape of Tagaytay is a Swiss-inspired sanctuary that's home to the great life – Crosswinds. The majestic homes of Crosswinds take design and architectural cues from the chalets of Switzerland with wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding, and dark asphalt roof shingles. Feel refreshed everyday with the bracing scent of more than 8,000 pine trees across the property. With the constant blowing winds, the cool environment, and the calming quiet of this Swiss haven, there's no place, no home quite like Crosswinds.

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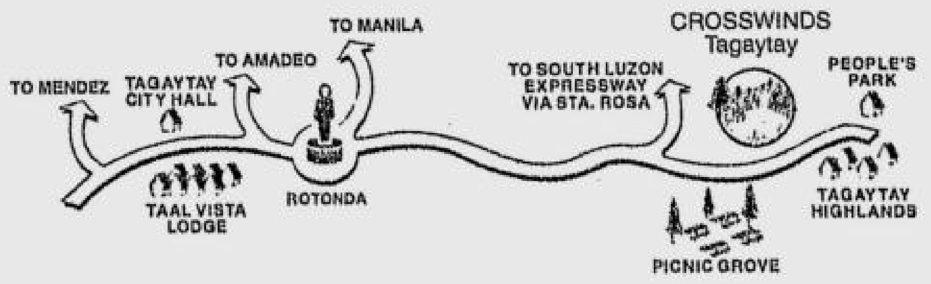
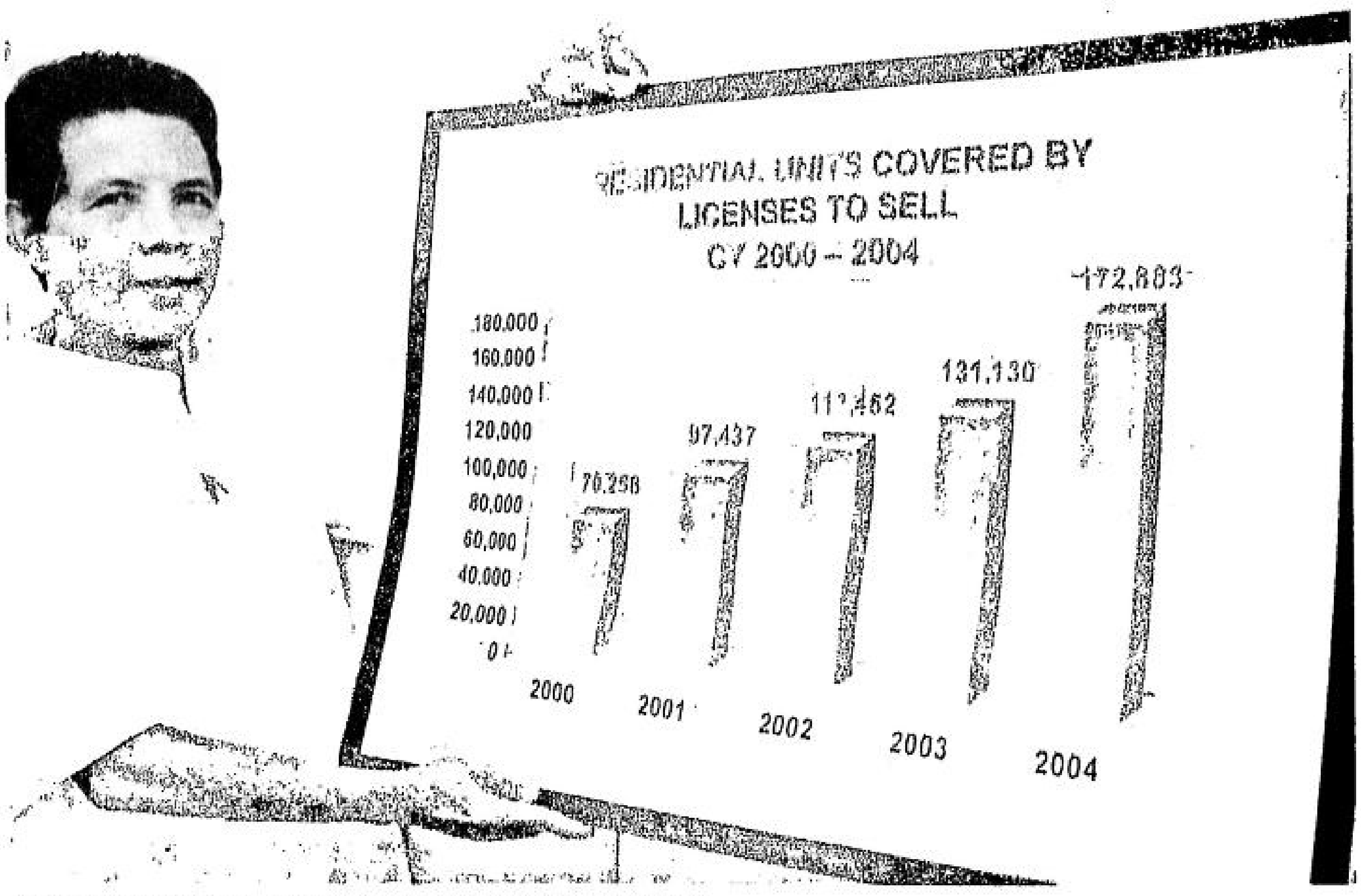


Buyers beware!

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.



FABUL shows graph of residential units covered by licenses to sell.

HOW CERTAIN ARE YOU THAT THE property you are buying with your life's savings will not go to waste? How confident are you that the developer you are dealing with can complete the job as promised?

Sure, the brochures are attractive! The prices are reasonable. The entrance gate is impressive. But are you sure the development will be completed and that you will get to live in the house you paid for with your sweat and blood?

Preselling

Since the cost of money is so high, most developers resort to preselling. That's marketing the lot or house or unit even before starting the project or while it is still under construction.

A lot of people buy during this preselling stage because the prices are lower and the rates are better since the developer need not add a premium for the cost of his money. But the trade off is that the risks of noncompletion are higher too.

To clarify the issues and identify checkpoints in protecting prospective buyers and investors, I met with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) main man, Commissioner and chief executive Romulo M. Fabul. Having served the board since 1982 and handled various offices under the past five presidents, he is the best person to speak to us about the field of housing in our country.

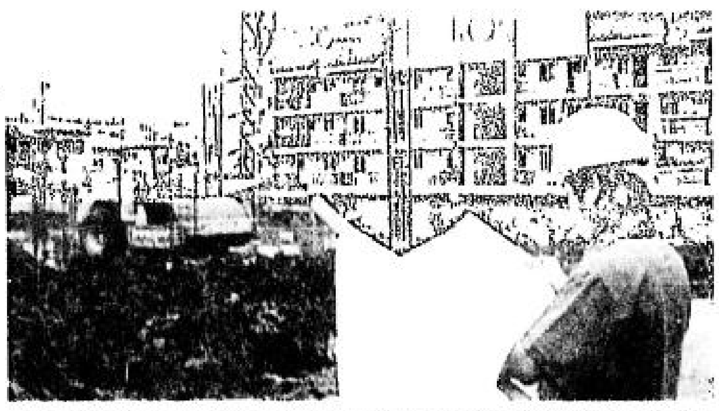
He recommends that even before giving a down payment on the lot, condo unit, townhouse or house of your choice, one must be aware and take steps to minimize the risks.

Suggestions

So, in summary, he suggests that the prospective buyer must do his homework.

- **Check if the developer has a permit or license to sell issued by the HLURB.** If the developer has not fully complied with the HLURB requirements, such a permit will not be issued. This ensures that the developer has the capacity to complete the project.
- **Check the track record of the developer.** Established developers will not compromise their names with incomplete projects. Try to find out if there were instances when the developer was not able to complete a project and why.
- **Have an expert check the product or the construction plans if at all possible.** Or if there's an ongoing construction, ask a knowledgeable person to look the site over. The most important items to look at are not the finishes but the structural, plumbing and electrical systems. Plumbing issues could prove to be a nightmare for the hapless homeowner. Electrical problems can be very dangerous and weaknesses in the structure will not only be expensive to repair, but can be extremely disastrous.
- **Buying lots in old or existing subdivision are even trickier.** Consult the neighbors and homeowners' association. Verify the records from the register of deeds for back taxes and ownership.
- **Listen to your intuition.** There are pieces of property that emit good vibrations and some just don't. Remember, this is a house that you would probably live in for the rest of your life and maybe pass on to your children, so it is important that you feel good about it.

There are no short cuts. Don't jump off the plane without a chute thinking that you can fly. No one can do all the above for you. You must get involved and be satisfied that you have done the best spade work possible. Only then, will you rest assured that your investment is an acceptable risk. Good luck!



PALMS GROVE PHASE 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION

DMCI Homes, the real estate business unit of construction giant D.M. Consunji Inc., is currently building Palm Grove Condominiums phase 2. With phase 1 already sold out, phase 2 will comprise five medium-rise flats at the right wing of the residential development. These are Peach Palm, Windmill Palm A and B, and Paradise Palm A and B which will be composed mainly of our floors of two-bedroom units. The Peach Palm building will be ready for occupancy by December this year, while the rest of the units are expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year. Palm Grove is Carribean-inspired enclave in Better Living, Parañaque that integrates both exclusivity and convenience.

eCreba land title mapping system now available

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND Builders Associations (Creba) yesterday announced its eCreba Geographic Information System (GIS) land title mapping service is now available to landowners, real estate buyers, investors, financing institutions and planners.

The new system was formally presented by Efren E.R. Ricalde, vice president of Creba-Geospatial Solutions Inc. at the Creba ninth monthly business meeting last week.

Conceptualized and designed by Creba experts and developed in partnership with geodetic engineering and information technology specialist Geospatial Solutions Inc., the eCreba GIS generates a digital comprehensive map of a titled land and its locality, utilizing the latest in GIS mapping technology and an extensive database of land information and local profiles.

Nationwide coverage

With a nationwide coverage, it enables anyone interested in a particular land title to pinpoint in a specific locality the land parcel described in the title, its configuration and technical data, and discover any technical defects in the title.

With accurate geo-referencing, it enables prospective buyers, investors and financing institutions to determine at a glance whether the land is truly where the title says it is , or whether there is potential risk in terms of defects in the title's technical descriptions of the land.

A far cry from the traditional title mapping, the resulting map displays not only the lot plan, but also a map of the municipality indicating the land's geographic position, with a total of 23 valuable, officially sourced data in graphical and textual form.

The additional information package includes the lot parcel's geophysical characteristics, its proximity to the town proper, the surrounding road network and waterways, land use, prevailing zonal value, power and water facilities in the locality, banks and tourist attractions.

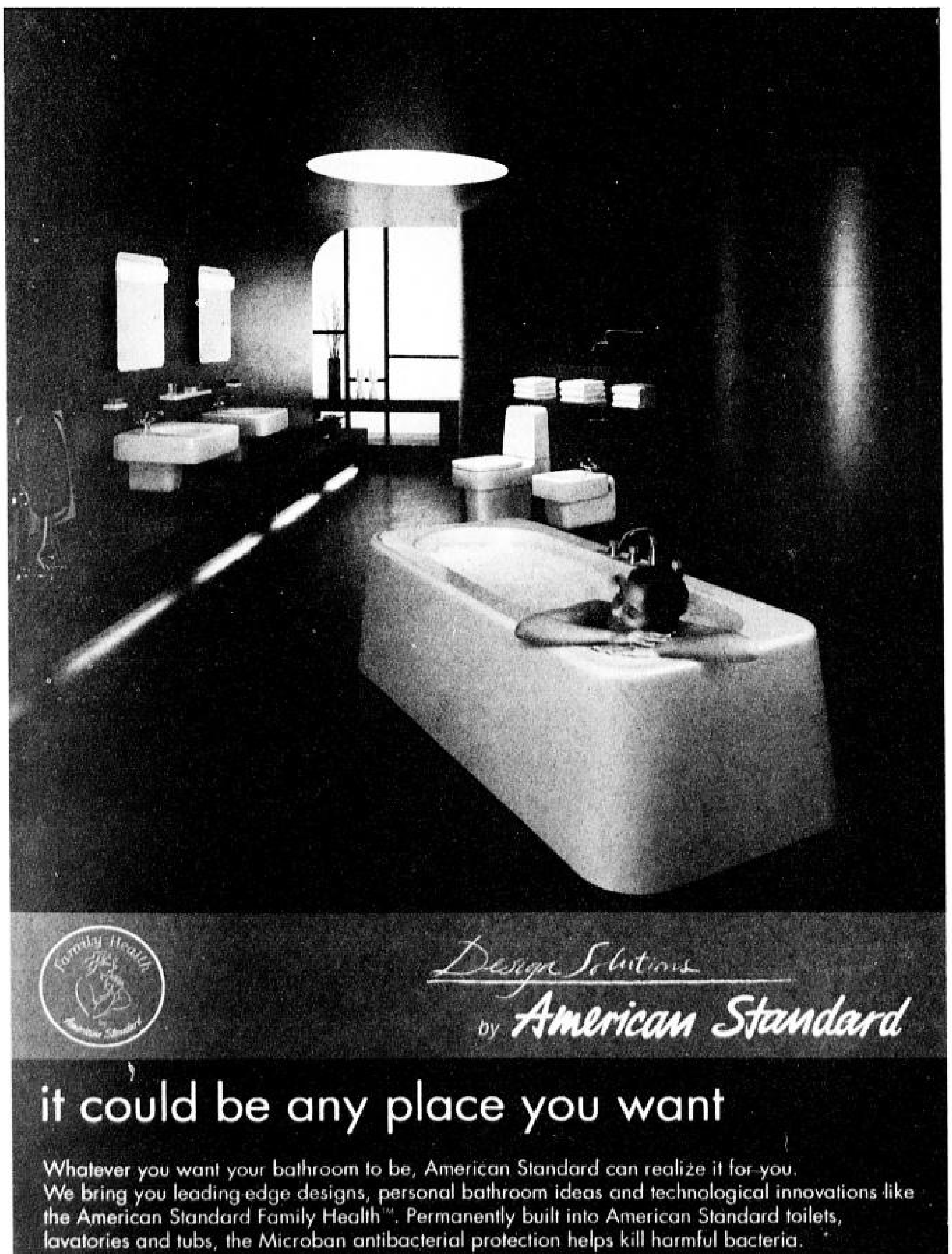
Powerful tool

Creba said the GIS title map not only serves as a powerful land evaluation tool, but also provides a bonus to local government units of presenting the investment and developmental potentials of their localities.

The project aims to address a vital need of the players in the real estate industry for centralized access to a package of land information crucial to wise investment decisions and responsive to developmental planning.

Before the new system was introduced, Creba said, getting all the information scattered in various government agencies would take two to three months at a cost of at least P25,000 to P35,000.

With the eCreba GIS title map, the information package is made available in less than a week, thus considerably speeding up the land development processes and the pace of local and national economic development. For more information, call Creba at 373-2270 and 373-2273.



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AddMix makes life easier for hardworking engineers

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND BUILDERS are always in search of new ways of doing things for them to be able to meet deadlines without sacrificing quality.

More and more products are coming out of the market but only a few will find favor with them. Quality, durability, strength and such factors as time and cost efficiency are what makes new products click with these building experts.

Breakthrough product

Global Brands hit the bullseye with its AddMix products. These products come in miniature packages but they have brought about big changes in the construction industry. This breakthrough product is a range of performance admixtures in powder form added and mixed to enhance specific properties of concrete.

The remarkable qualities of AddMix have so impressed the Quality Assurance and Quality Control head of DDT Konstract, engineer Rene Raagas who oversees the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region Office in Manila.

"AddMix gives us twice the strength of ordinary cement mixes," Raagas says. He adds that with the assurance of added durability and strength of the cement, it further decreases the chance of rework for any of the structures.

According to him, it also allows early setting of the cement mix which drastically cuts down our project timeframe by as much as 25 percent. Moreover, it provides about 35 percent savings in materials cost, he adds. Needless to say, AddMix provides a lot of benefits for engineers who are under a lot of stress during the construction period.

4 variants

Raagas uses all of AddMix's four variants. The first variant is AddMix Plus. The volume expander for mortars used for concrete hollow blocks. The second variant is AddMix Easy, the plaster mortar enhancer. It is the secret to a better and more economical plaster.

Third in the AddMix range is the AddMix Ultra. The fortifier and accelerator for concrete poured in structural elements. Structural masses such as beams, columns and some flooring require specified concrete or cement mix strengths.

And the fourth AddMix variant is the AddMix Tilebond. For economical tile setting mortars. AddMix Tilebond also contains air entraining agents but its real strength lies in its "Triple Bonding Agent." The triple bonding agents in Tilebond is responsible for the superior adhesion and faster setting and curing results obtained from tile setting mortars mixed with it.

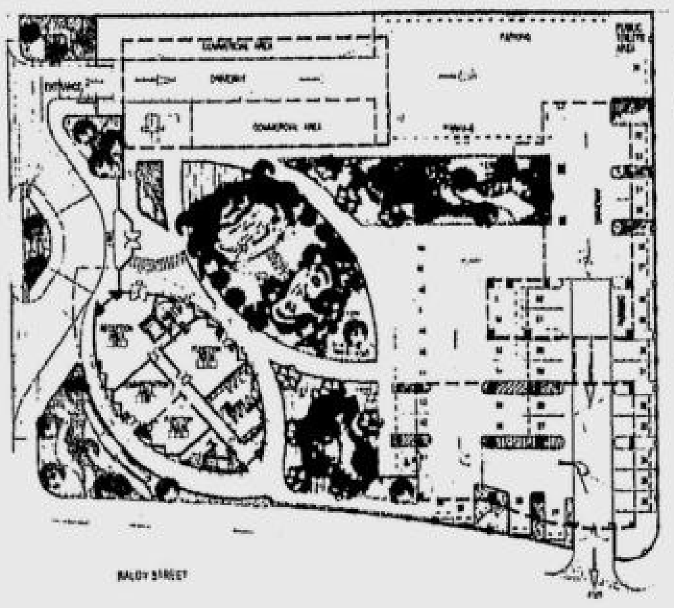
Raagas believes in the product 100 percent and will continue using it with other projects. For engineers like Raagas, AddMix is seen as the partner to quality concrete. Not only does it enhance strength and durability, it is also time and cost efficient and hence, makes life easier for builders of homes and buildings as well as other infrastructures.

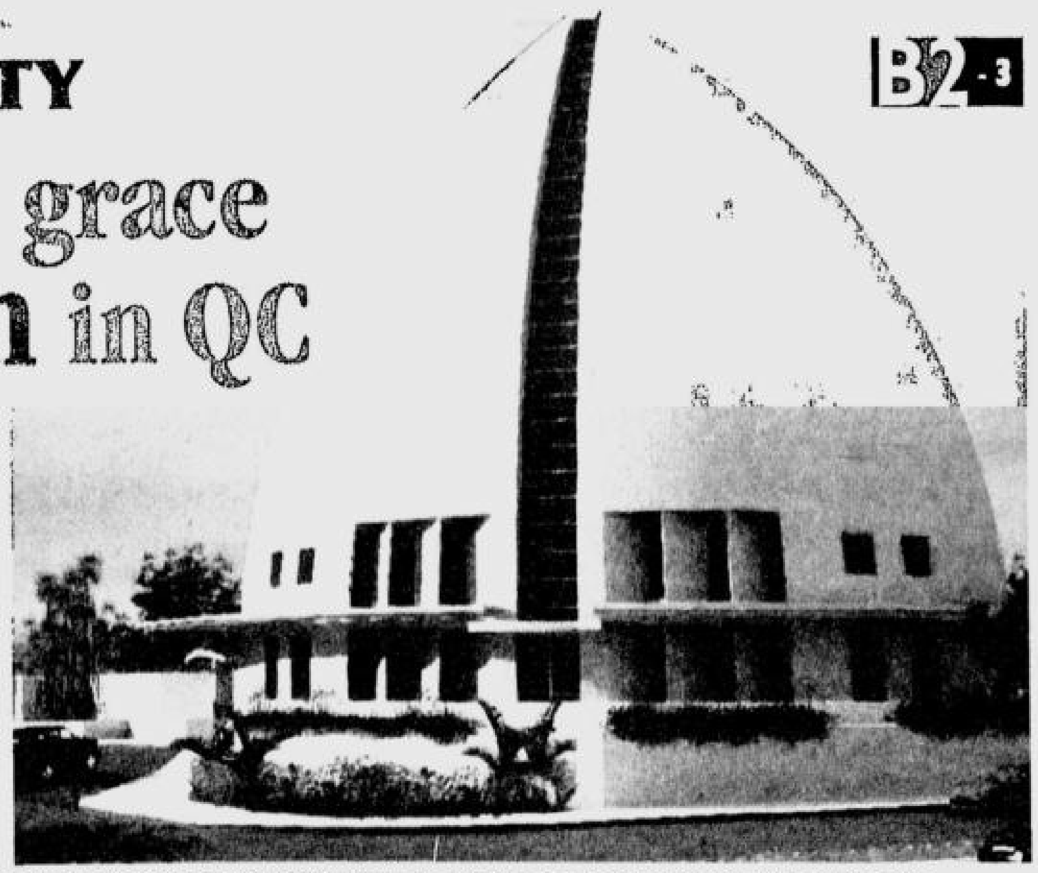
GROUNDBREAKING RITES

The groundbreaking ceremonies for Birch, the second building of the West Parc project of Filinvest Alabang Inc. (FAI) was held recently. From left are FAI project team head for West Parc Condominiums Christopher F.A. Calibo, Design Consultants Inc. GM J.O. Salvacion, C.E. Construction president and GM Johnny Tan, FAI executive vice president Josephine G. Yap, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi and Vice Mayor Aldrin San Pedro and R. Villarosa Architects, Partners & Associates architect-partner Roy Villarosa.

Distinct architecture to grace soon-to-rise columbarium in QC

By Charles E. Buban





GIVING THE STRUCTURE'S unique look is The Ascension Columbary's architecture patterned after that of a bishop's miter.

WHEN ARCHITECT JOJO TOLENTINO was given the task of designing The Ascension Columbary building in Quezon City, his instructions were quite precise: give the structure a uniquely imposing character but one that should still make people feel welcome to come inside.

"It was a rather challenging task but after showing the final design to our client, I believe our team has succeeded in conveying what they would like to achieve," says Tolentino, who is president and CEO of RMJM Philippines, one of the biggest architectural and interior design consultancy firms in the country.

Indeed, expectations are high for the 4,265-square-meter pilot project of Caelum Developers Inc. (headed by its chair, businessman and philanthropist Ricardo Pascua) at the corner of Araneta Avenue and Baloy Street in Quezon City.

With the now limited number of in-city memorial lot spaces and the growing number of Filipinos considering cremation and interment in a columbarium as a way of honoring their departed once, The Ascension Columbary is expected to be the next preferred alternative.

A benchmark

Once the construction is completed 18 months from now, The Ascension Columbary is expected to set a benchmark in terms of style and concept.

"Giving the structure's unique look is its overall design that is patterned after that of a bishop's miter. This gives The Ascension Columbary its dignified, classy look, which at the same time is still simple enough to appeal to every Filipino wanting to have an affordable repository of their loved one's remains," describes Tolentino.

The architect adds that The Ascension Columbary's modern styling—from the exterior to the interior—fits perfectly with his team's desire to create an architectural icon that people would easily associate to its developer.

Different in form, function

Aside from the miter-inspired design, The Ascension Columbary would also be different in form and function. The entire 1,325-sq-m structure, which is the first to be erected in this multiphase project, will initially house around 5,500 niches with each accommodating a total of four urns.

"If the market demands, three more structures can still be added. However, visitors and patrons can now rely on an expansive parking area, which we addressed early on as this is often the challenge of similar developments nowadays," reveals Tolentino.

A church is also expected to be added to complete the development's solemn ambience.

Further adding to the rich amenities of The Ascension Columbary, Tolentino reveals there are also planning of building several function rooms (located at the ground level).

Perfect venue

"The function rooms will serve as a perfect venue where families could congregate. But whether at the park area (outdoor) or in these function rooms, The Ascension Columbary affords families the freedom to choose which area they would like to hold their gatherings," says Tolentino.

RMJM Philippines is part of a global network of architectural firms responsible for the construction of several projects in the United States and major parts of Asia.

It is the local office of London- and Edinburgh-based RMJM, which has undertaken several high-class projects in the Philippines such as architectural work on the Forbes Tower, the Serendra residential and commercial areas, all in Makati City and the Market! Market! project in Fort Bonifacio.

WITH EXPANSIVE parking area, ample outdoor spaces as well as indoor facilities to hold gatherings, The Ascension Columbary is set to become an important landmark in Quezon City.

Verdana Homes sets open house tomorrow

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE SOUTH AS COMmunity Innovations celebrates two milestones in the development of Verdana Homes Mamplasan, a cozy suburban enclave ideally sized for a nurturing family and community life. To mark the completion of the exclusive access road from the Mamplasan Exit of the South Luzon Expressway, Community Innovations is set to hold a Verdana family picnic day tomorrow.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., young families, newlyweds and investors can personally experience the neighborhood's warm and friendly atmosphere. Awaiting guests are lots of fun and surprises such as a special dog show and juggling acts for entertainment. Free balloon sculptures and other goodies are also in store for children.

Open house

And to showcase the latest developments in the Verdana Homes Mamplasan community, there will also be an open house held simultaneously with the family day activities.

Guests will get a glimpse of the neighborhood's idyllic home environment with the unveiling of two Balinese-inspired model homes superbly interior designed by Isabel Asuncion of Asuncion-Berenguer Inc. and Jonathan Matti of Design Associates. The clubhouse is now under construction and will be operational early next year.

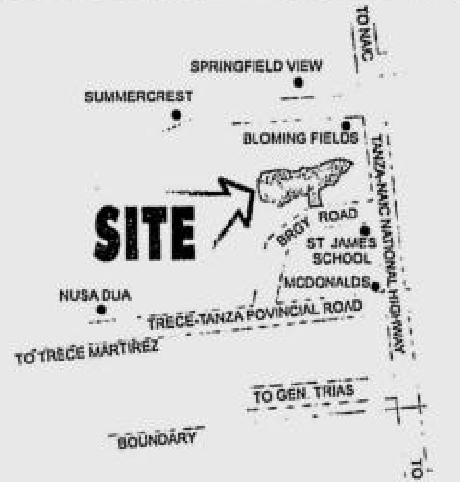
Designed with future residents' needs and concerns in mind, both units were created with a pleasant and inviting atmosphere. Each home's warm earth colors, coupled with natural ventilation and lighting enhances the airy living and recreation areas. Ample room for storage and helpers' quarters, making it an ideal residence for growing families.

Located at the gateway to Ayala South, Verdana Homes Mamplasan is envisioned as a vibrant residential community for forward-thinking professionals and their families seeking a harmonious environment away from the busy metropolis.

Interaction

The cozy 40-hectare development fosters friendly interaction among its residents and is conveniently situated near leisure destinations, prestigious educational institutions and industrial parks.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.



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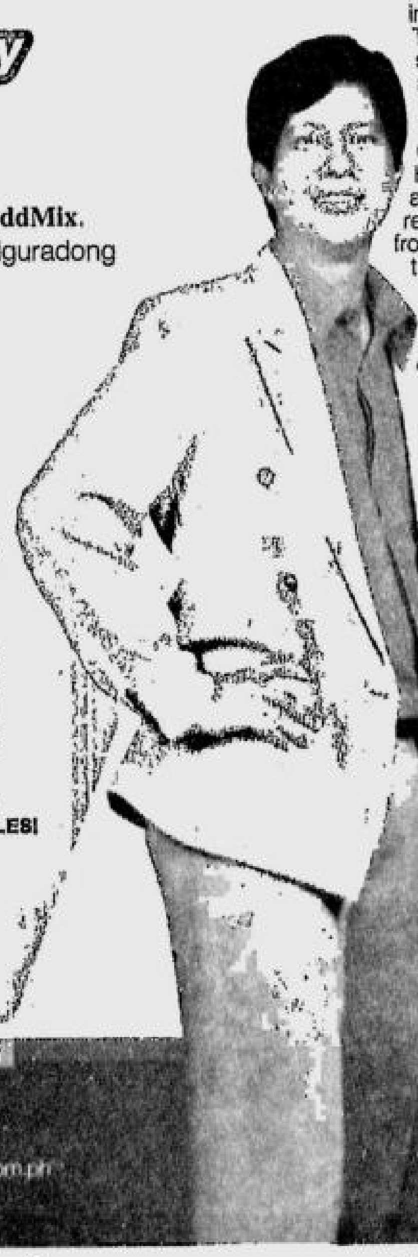

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AddMix: The Key to Efficiency

What do clients look for in a construction project? "Quality of work is of utmost importance", says **Engr. Rene C. Raagas**, an expert in the field of construction. The word "quality" encompasses all the necessary requisites - strength, durability, stability, and aesthetics. It also includes such attributes as superiority in kind and assurance of safety for people who will work and live in completed structures.

Engr. Raagas, who now oversees the construction of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Western Pacific Region as Quality Assurance and Control Head of DDT Konstract, Inc. (the contractor of the project) knows how to attain all the pre-requisites of quality by using tried and tested products. "I can really rely on **AddMix** products to come up with desired results. These admixtures from Global Brands come in powder form and as such are easier to mix. Indeed, they are very useful at every stage of a construction project," he says.

Having a keen eye for detail is something Engr. Raagas is blessed with, which goes well with his lively and sensible work attitude. He has worked for respected companies in the past, that lessons in various aspects have further honed these traits. While employed at Samsung Construction Philippines, he was Project-In-Charge for the 54th storey high and 8 1/2 basement PBCom Tower right at the heart of Makati. It was only recently that Engr. Raagas was also QA/QC Manager for the Galleria Regency project located at Ortigas area when he was with L & M Maxco.

Aside from the pool of talented engineers and strong leadership of management especially the company president who gives the right directions, there is also the importance of having the right products to use. As far as he is concerned, **AddMix** is a revolutionary product and it is one of the secrets behind the success of the projects of **DDT KONSTRACT, INC.**

"I use all variants of **AddMix** in all my projects," states Engr. Rene C. Raagas, an expert in the field of construction. "These products have proven to be a boon in all my undertakings as they have made work much easier and faster," he says.

Engr. Raagas explains how he uses these products - "I use **AddMix Ultra** which promotes faster curing time and increases comprehensive strength of concrete, saving us time but ensuring quality. With **AddMix Easy**, all the plaster in my projects have no unsightly cracks as they are firmly adhered to the wall. During my pre-AddMix days, I used to have a lot spoilage and had to rework things but with **AddMix Easy**, plastering became highly efficient in terms of time and costs. With **AddMix Tilebond**, tile setting for GDC, WSO and E Offices in Makati was made much easier as there was stronger bonding, faster setting and curing results. Comparing this **Tilebond** with conventional tile setting mortars, **AddMix Tilebond** applied cost per square meter is lower thus more economical."

"I have already referred AddMix to other colleagues," says Engr. Raagas. When asked why, he said he has used this successfully and that he believes in the product 100% and will continue on using it with other projects. Undoubtedly, even to a well-trusted engineer like Engr. Raagas, AddMix is seen as the partner to quality concrete.

Portofino redefines living large

HOUSES in the WideLot allow for greater window area that ensures entry of more natural light and better air circulation.

LIVING LARGE FINDS NEW meaning at Brittany Corp.'s Portofino. The real estate maverick pushes the envelope further once again with its innovative WideLots of Portofino—a unique development concept designed to highlight the grandeur of one's home.

WideLots of Portofino is an exclusive 18-hectare property composed of 235 prime lots for custom and courtyard homes. It lies along the stretch of the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road. It is merely five minutes away from Alabang's business district and about 30 minutes away from Makati.

Wider frontage

What makes this new enclave unique, however, is the wider frontage that it offers. Each lot enjoys a frontage ranging from 17 to 22 meters with a depth ranging from 16 to 18 m. This allows for homes to be viewed and better appreciated.

Says Brittany president Jing Serrano: "The WideLot concept magnifies the total grandeur of the house. For us, each house is a masterpiece and the wider frontage that the WideLots afford would ensure that it can be appreciated from every angle."

This design concept is getting popular in other parts of the world and Brittany Corp., being the real estate maverick that is, is now the first to introduce this in the Philippines in a big scale.

Apart from the homeowner's personal pride in showing off his home, the WideLots of Portofino boasts of several other advantages. A row of homes with wider frontage would certainly improve the streetscape and enhance the appearance of the community.

Because the frontage is wider than that of the conventional home, a WideLot house would have greater window area. This would ensure that more natural light could freely enter and allow the sun's healing radiance to illuminate the interiors. More and bigger windows would also ensure better air circulation within the house.

Distinct design feature

A distinct design feature that can be enjoyed by WideLots homeowners is the portico. To savor a rich cup of coffee and the morning's peace and quiet, the portico allows the homeowner to sit out and enjoy the front as much as the back of the home.

With a wider frontage comes a larger backyard as well. WideLots homes offer a greater area of backyard space that can accommodate various outdoor activities—from family barbecues to celebrating parties with intimate friends and relatives.

Since WideLots homes are designed with a recessed garage, it naturally offers greater visibility from inside looking out. This design assures homeowners better security within the property.

And finally, because of the greater emphasis on the front of the house, a stronger bond with neighbors is formed. With activities being held in front rather than the backyard, there is more opportunity to wave hello to friends next door and across the street, fostering a greater sense of community.

The WideLots of Portofino offers lot sizes ranging from 272 to 594 sq m. Prices for lot packages range from P3.6 to P6.9 million. The Portofino development, where the WideLots is located, is an Italian-inspired property that is distinctly characterized with paved cobblestones, sun-drenched colors, and magnificent architecture. The epitome of a good life, it combines the rustic charms of Southern Italy with all the conveniences that modern living affords.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084.

Bay Garden a paradise in the city

BAY GARDEN IS A PREMIER CONDOminium development with superior facilities. Next to Manila Bay and at the heart of the newly created pulse point of Metropolitan Park, Federal Land's Bay Garden Condominium offers the tranquility and comfort of home amid an urban landscape for the modern Filipino.

The Mactan Tower of Bay Garden Condominium offers one, two- and three-bedroom units with varying prices to fit every budget. W.V. Coscolluela & Associates is one of the team of interior designers handpicked by Federal Land to decorate the two-bedroom units of the Mactan Tower of the condominium. With several prestigious commercial and residential projects under their belt, their expression of interior design is topnotch. A space of 98.5 square meters is cleverly arranged to have the use and function of a space more than twice its size.

Welcome reception

Upon entry into the roomy foyer, a color palette evocative of sunrise is a welcome reception. "Because of its proximity to the bay, we chose colors related to the sun's movements as well as to the tropics," states Marion Coscolluela.

To the immediate right, the informal but cozy kitchen is found. The sleek style encourages even the most kitchen-challenged person to throw together a home-cooked meal with minimum fuss. The compact laundry area together with the nearby storage area ingeniously converts to the servants quarters as well.

In line with the Coscolluela's goal to emphasize the free flow of space, a wall opening was created between the kitchen and dining room. Apart from obvious esthetic benefits, this allows for easier serving from the kitchen as well. "We don't want the owners to feel cramped when they come home. This opening gives an illusion of bigger space. It also permits a view of both the dining room and sala," points out Dinggay LaO, an associate of Marion Coscolluela.

For the dining room, which is ideal for intimate entertaining, W.V. Coscolluela chose a casual but stylish look. They also employed the benefits of feng shui, a Chinese system of living in harmony with the natural elements and forces of earth and popular with Filipinos today. With a framed mirror dominating the adjacent wall and adding to the seamless flow of space, feng shui assures the owner of doubling the wealth of food on the dining table.

The sala is a showcase of the modern contemporary style, which W.V. Coscolluela favors. The elegantly upholstered sofa hints at the worldly flair of Europe. With comfy armchairs, one is inclined to lie back and rest from the cares of the world.

"Our classic armchairs are specially adapted to modern style as well as the clean lines and uncluttered arrangement of the sala," shares Marion. Carefully placed shelves allow for a display of family pictures and other knickknacks or the more sophisticated audio and video equipment with strategically placed artworks completing the look.

Giving an illusion of space

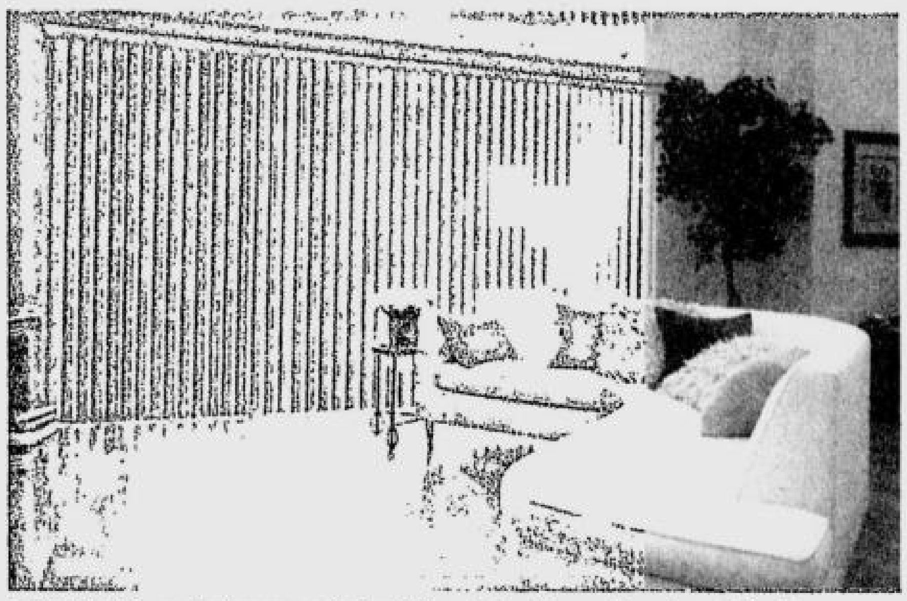
A move toward the masters bedroom and the reason for choosing the Bay Garden condominiums is immediately clear. Located in a corner, it boasts of two floor-to-ceiling windows in adjacent walls. "This is my favorite room," says Marion beaming. "One has a choice between the city lights and the nonstop energy of the boulevards below or the magnificent view of Manila Bay." Both views can easily render the most loquacious man silent and wondering.

To add to the luxurious ambience, a profusion of pillows is heaped on the bed. Side tables were carefully constructed to "float," leaving the space below free of cumbersome table legs. "This is one of our ways of expressing our modern style. By giving an illusion of space around the bed and below the side tables, the look is clean and uncluttered," explains Marion. The second smaller bedroom and its bathroom are styled in the comfy but uncluttered look as well.

Truly, living by the bay has never felt more like a private tropical island combined with all the luxuries of home.

To fully view the exquisite Bay Garden model unit designed by the WV Coscolluela team, visit the Bay Garden showroom at Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa Extension, Pasay City. For further questions about Bay Garden, please call 551-0888, or log on to www.baygarden.com.ph.

Luxaflex revolutionizes window fashion



LUXAFLEX products can easily be distinguished from other brands for its supreme styling, excellent user comfort, durability, and special designs for specific occasions.

LUXAFLEX WINDOW FASHION FROM Hunter Douglas continues to blaze the trail of window fashions with revolutionary new concepts that redefine how people look and appreciate blinds and shades.

The company, after all, pioneered in the 1940s the innovative aluminum Venetian Blinds, whose design and durability remains unparalleled up to this day.

And its quest for novel products continues. "We have a research and development team that specifically addresses the changing demands and requirements of our clientele. In fact, most of the time, we already have the product that they are looking for," the management of Luxaflex says in an official statement.

Innovating Venetian Blinds

Take its Venetian Blinds for instance. Since the trend for the use of blinds with wider slats is growing, Luxaflex has developed designs that both address esthetic and practical requirements.

"You will notice that the edges of the slats and the end caps of the header rail and bottom bar are now nicely rounded off," the Luxaflex statement stresses.

The new blinds also display engineering ingenuity. The 16/25-mm models, for example, have been given a more stable modern shape.

"This offers significant advantages. A special light trap holds light between the rail and the top slat. The adapted shape of the rail means that fewer supports are required per running meter. The position of the supports is free, as you no longer have to worry about components in the header rail. In short: the header rail can be fitted more easily and faster," says the Luxaflex spokesperson.

The fixed bottom bar of the Luxaflex Venetian Blinds also hangs better. Its esthetically designed end caps run over nicely on the whole, while the pull and ladder cords are fastened out of sight at the bottom of the bottom bar.

Luxaflex Venetian Blinds now also have a smarter and safer cord connector, which opens on its own if weight is exerted between the pull cords. "This leads to increased safety and reduces the chance of accidents with pets or small children. An opened cord connector can also be easily reset," reads the Luxaflex statement.

Modernizing roller shades

Apart from innovating Venetian Blinds, Luxaflex is also known for revolutionizing the roller shades, the most sought-after type of shades in the market these days.

Their product can easily be distinguished from other brands for its supreme styling, excellent user comfort, durability and special designs for specific applications.

Luxaflex Roller Shades carry exclusive colors from the natural to the most solid shades and its patterned collection consists of no less than 20 options. These include the pagoda, freya, piazza, seasons, fiore, primavera, ophelia, sunny flower, sunny element, oak, marble, marrakech, graphics, ethnic, square and stripe.

Luxaflex Roller Shades also have a number of patterned blackout collections for both adult and children's rooms. They are also available in various finishes for the scalloped edges, trims and rods. They also have varied control options (including electric, motorized and remote controls).

And like all Luxaflex products, they are made from outstanding quality materials. Their fabrics are superior and their tubes are made to last longer than other brands.

The Luxaflex Roller Blinds also have special designs for specific applications. There are the Skylights and the Tilt-and-Turn Windows, the Outward Opening Windows and the Draughty Rooms for lateral support.

Luxaflex Window Fashion indeed continues to live up to its pioneering spirit and its clients the world over are more than happy that they keep on coming up with the best products to beautify their homes, offices and establishments.

For those who want to learn more about Luxaflex's Venetian blinds and roller shades, they can call (02) 453-3155, mobile 0920-9249765, 0917-8239241, 0922-8089275 or e-mail at luxaflex@hunterdouglas.com.ph.

Crown Asia holds Presidio football fest

RECOGNIZED FOR CREATING MASTER-planned residential communities, Crown Asia offers a taste of the active urbanite's lifestyle and a glimpse of the daily activities you can enjoy once you get settled in Presidio at Brittany Bay by spearheading the Presidio Football Fiesta.

Crown Asia strengthens its 10-year leadership in the real estate industry with the fast-paced development of its first vertical community to redefine urban living.

Presidio at Brittany Bay is a self-contained multilevel hub by the bay with its symphony of 16 towers interplaying in height and size. It may be reached from the South Luzon Expressway, enter Sucat tollway and take the East Service Road, turn right to Posadas Avenue and just follow Presidio directional signages and banners.

The Presidio Football Fiesta is an ongoing weekly tournament involving friendly competition, skill, and sportsmanship. The tournament is open for all football enthusiasts, families who appreciate watching games and anyone who would want to have fun outdoors. It has several categories: boys and girls aged 13-14 years old (Sept. 25); men's and women's open (Oct. 2); and boys and girls aged 10-12 years old (Oct. 16). Games start at 8 a.m.

All interested teams are invited to join the Presidio Football Fiesta (seven aside competition). A maximum of 12 players will be allowed to register per team. More than 50 teams are expected to take part in Crown Asia's most anticipated event of the season.

A minimal registration fee of P1,000 is required per team.

For detailed games rules and more information on the Presidio Football Fiesta you may contact Karl Tabucal at 718-3468, 718-3410 and 0917-8576494 or e-mail at realestate_business@yahoo.com.

Rebap-Greenhills review for realty brokers exam

THE REAL ESTATE BROKERS ASSOCIAtion of the Philippines (Rebap) Greenhills chapter announces the upcoming annual Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and Review which will be held at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

The seminar will serve as a Continuing Education Program (CEP) credit compliance for license renewal. It is in preparation for the scheduled licensure examination for real estate brokers on Nov. 27 by the Department of Trade and Industry through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection.

Successful examinees will qualify for licensing as real estate brokers.

All real estate developers, investors, brokers, sales and marketing personnel are invited to avail of this learning experience.

The schedules are as follows: every Saturday—Oct. 8, 15, 22 and Nov. 5,12 and 19—from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Lawyer Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant and realty appraisers and brokers board topnotcher, will lead experts and authorities in their respective field on the lectures on subjects prescribed by DTI.

For registration and information interested parties may call Leonor at 631-3296, cellphone 0919-3333336 or Wena at 244-1132/0921-4020240 or e-mail rebapgreenhills@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

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C1

Super Countdown

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Creative Director **Tim Yap**

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

x and why

Ruffa is the showbiz Imelda page C2

Real beauty or real disaster? page D1

Fourth Tatler Ball tonight! page C3

The new Scoop in the business of show page C2

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Styling: LIZ UY
Makeup: LEO POSADAS
Hair: FELICITY SON
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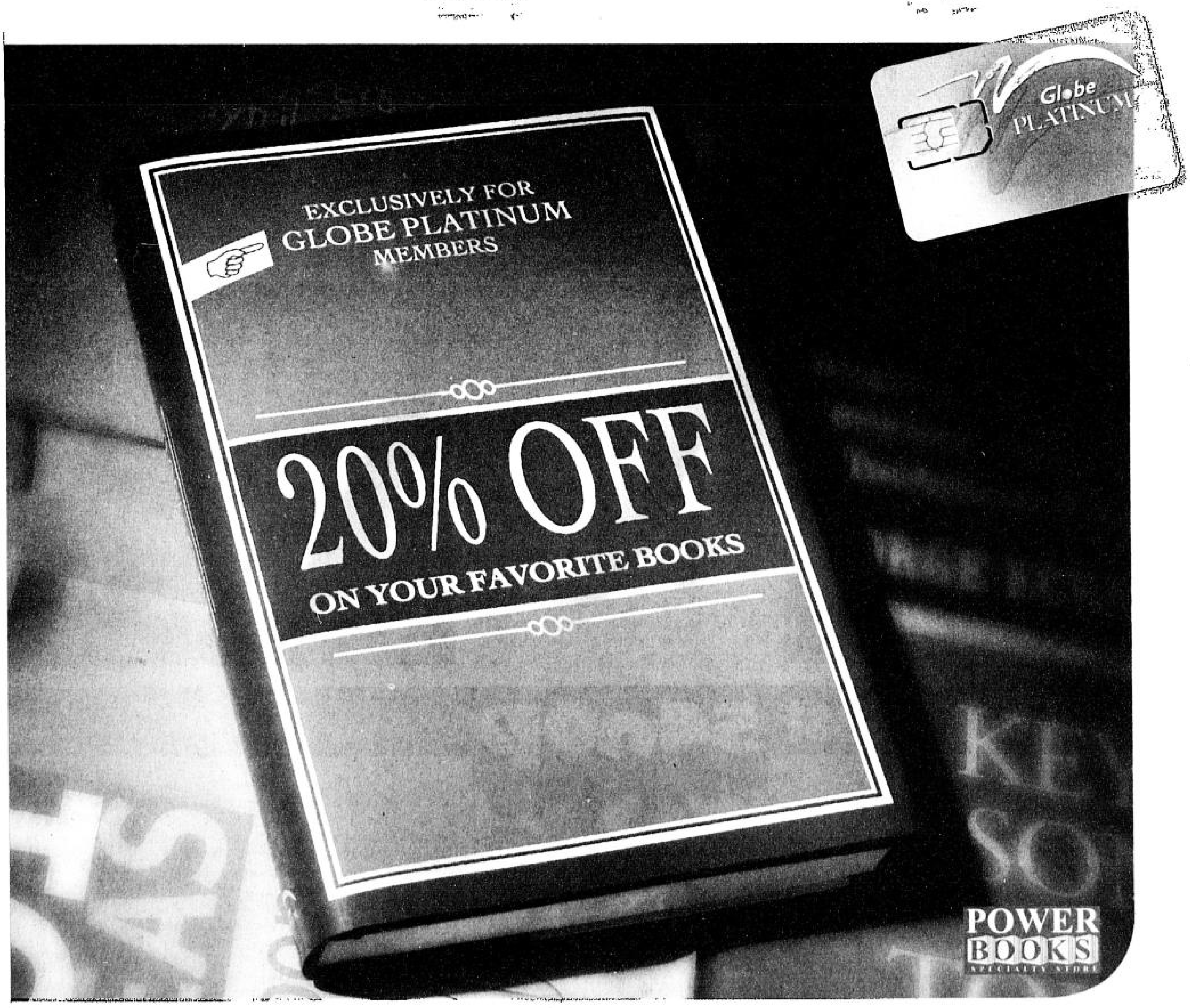
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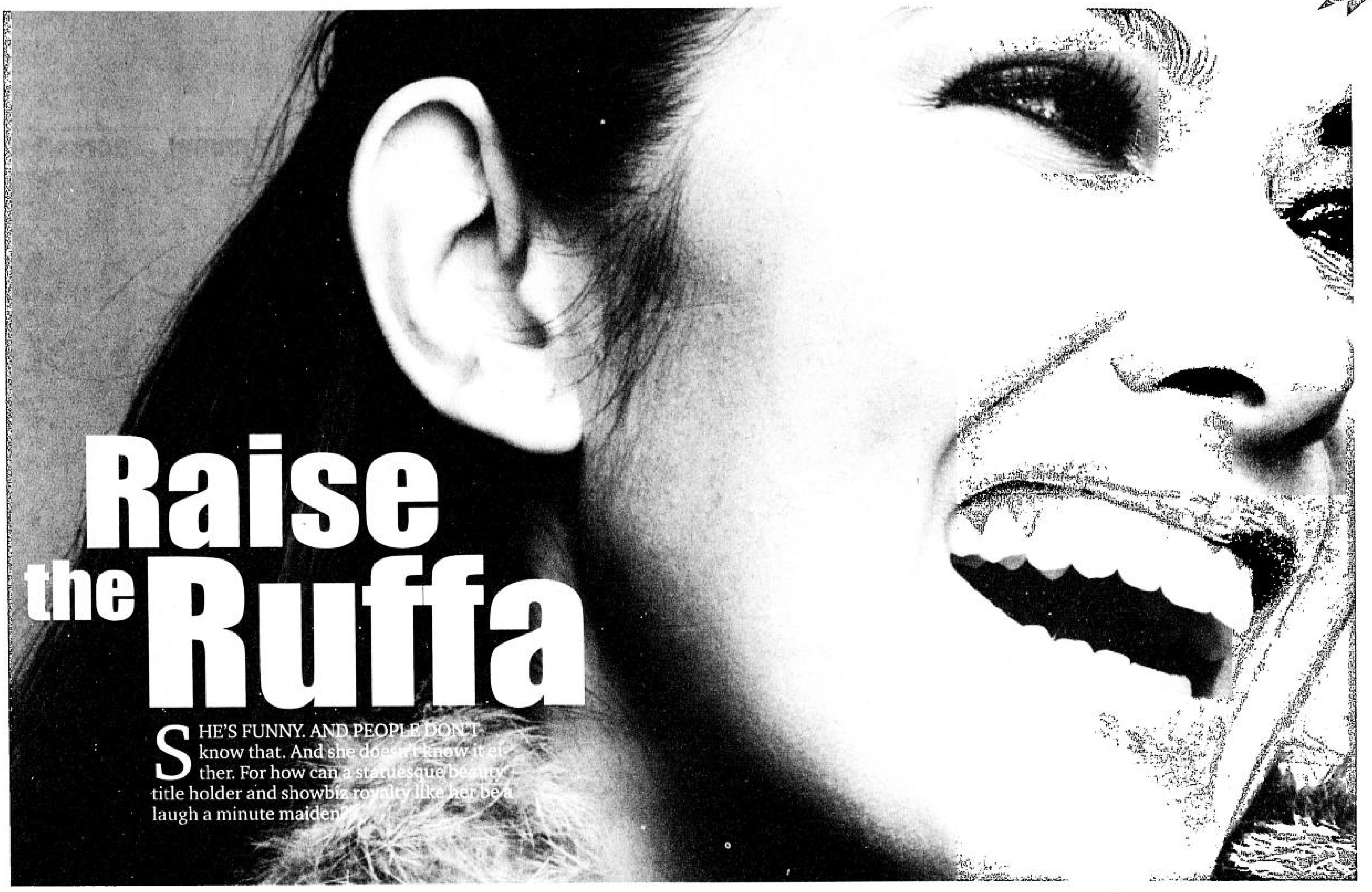

Raise the Ruffa

SHE'S FUNNY. AND PEOPLE DON'T know that. And she doesn't know it either. For how can a statuesque beauty title holder and showbiz royalty like her be a laugh a minute maiden?

She speaks her mind on anything, from the smallest things to the most personal matters. If there would be one reality show left to make, it would have to be one with Ruffa. Make her do anything, and trust her to turn it into one Ruffa-rific experience.

Just recently, she bumped into EJ Litton. Excited to catch up with the guy who made Stars a nightlife legend, she exclaimed, "Oh my God, EJ! I'm so happy you've lost weight finally—it looks so good on you!" To which EJ answered back, "Ruffa, I have cancer." Ruffa said, "Oh My God, can I faint now?"

Lorins Patis

I remember the time when Ruffa was planning to name a cologne after her eldest daughter Lorin. "But I stopped and thought of another name because there's Lorins patis," she says in distinct Ruffa speak.

Aside from Kris Aquino, she has one of the most distinguishable (and spoofable) voices and mannerisms in the biz. Remember when her signature "*Graabeehh!*" became a buzzword?

She's not just large in person (tall—that's what I'm trying to say), she's larger than life and has this tenacity to do everything supersized, without even meaning to. From the rocks that she's got, the number of godparents her children have to her announcement of her Fashion TV red carpet moment, everything is done in Ruffa-silver-screen-style.

Many celebrities these days are obvious products of mass manufacturing minds of managers and handlers. Ruffa's mix of celebrity is all her own—she never tries to be.

She just is. Intriguing, unpredictable, always decked out, bordering on the over-the-top—call her anything, but there's nothing artificial about her.

Showbiz Imelda

Ruffa has this almost child like state of naivete when meeting people. Despite what she's been through, she carries no angst nor prejudice. She's not the type of person who would give you a once-over.

"She grew up being judged and scrutinized that the beauty of knowing her is that she is just so allergic to those things that she herself knows not to judge," observed Celine Lopez over dinner at Sugi. "She is to me the showbiz Imelda—when she walks into a room, you have no choice but to just gawk at her—whether you like her or not," opined Tessa Prieto-Valdes while we were having dinner at Embassy Cuisine to celebrate Yilmaz's sister Kezra's birthday.

When I used to visit her in LA, even at the peak of her pregnancy, she would alert the whole town of my visit. All of a sudden, I would get so many phone calls from friends based in California because Ruffa had alerted them. Sometimes, I would get random calls from Ruffa, ecstatic, "Hello Tim! I'm in St. Tropez! Come join me!" Or from anywhere else in the world where she's living it up.

She recalls having a hard time during Ramadan (she has converted into Islam) where Muslims have to fast (from everything "sinful") from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. "So I do everything until 4:59! And then I pray to Allah that I'll wake up at 3 a.m. the next day."

Again, whatever you think or say about her, she's living a privileged life that she's always wanted—as devoted wife and doting mother—without stepping on anyone's toes. Which is proof of her shining in any role she chooses.

As she would say, "*Grabeh!*"

Tim Yap

Im saving up for... you mean we're actually supposed to save?! My biggest indulgence is... laughter. I can't get enough of it

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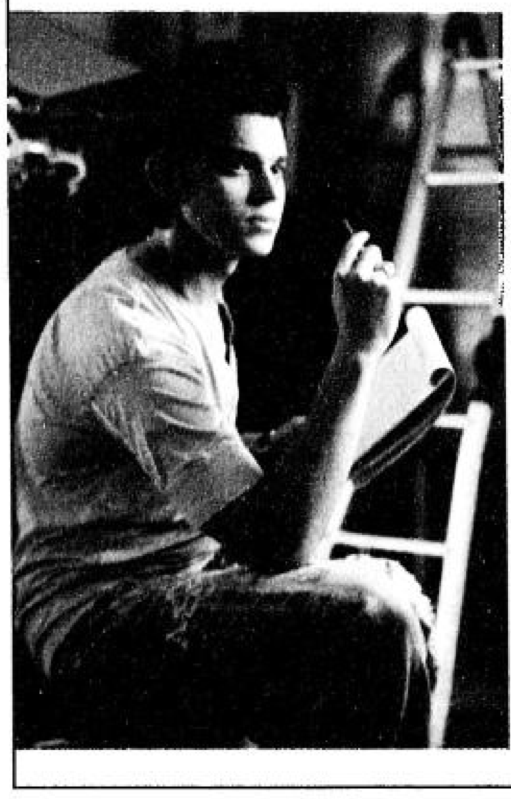
Wanna know the latest

scoop!
a threesome with brothers
montero
epy quizon
tv screen magic
behind the scenes exclusives
reunited?!



By Albert Pili

TAKE A MINUTE TO SIT BACK, RELAX and have some entertainment!

Wouldn't you agree that in times like these we need some entertainment to lighten things up? Hear about the most amusing showbiz stories, from enticing tidbits to the real deal in Scoop, the latest showbiz magazine to hit the stands this October. In Scoop, every detail is exposed. We take you on a ride to showbiz lives from who shocked to who rocked!

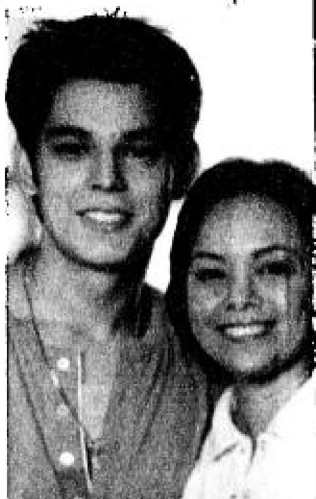
Filmmaker and writer Katrina Holigores heads this new brand of mag that'll surely keep you amused. "In Scoop, we make it our business to chase down and feature the latest and hottest heavenly bodies that exist in the universe of entertainment." Scoop's mission is to give readers a different view of the faces and personalities that light up the small and big screen.

Scoop will also be featuring celebrity columnists such as Ryan Agoncillo, Bianca Gonzalez and Pia Guanio. Interesting sections include Celebrity Clans—the names that Philippine showbiz is built on, Hot Off the Press which digs deeper into the biz's hard-hitting issues, Screen Test where newcomers jumpstart their showbiz life and Vanity Fare which features the stars' best-kept glamour secrets.

On the cover of the maiden issue is hot new item Richard Guttierez and Anne Curtis—the young super powers of Philippine TV. Whether they're back together or not, only Scoop knows. Plus we give you backstage pass to "Encantadia." Get to witness behind the scenes action of one of TV's grandest shows. Take a trip along with Joross Gamboa and Roxanne Guinoo up north as they explore California and Nikki Valdez and Dominic Ochoa as they head for exotic Dubai. All these in this month's Scoop!

On Oct. 3, the country's hottest stars and celebrities join in to launch Scoop magazine in one smashing party at the Promenade Mall Lobby, Greenhills. Scoop redefines entertainment and partying as it brings together the best hosts and performers for an exceptional, fun-filled affair! The much-anticipated maiden issue of Scoop will also be launched on this night, as well as an audiovisual presentation of what readers can expect and also a chance to meet the talented team behind Scoop!

Scoop is a prestige publication of MEGA magazines & Publications Inc., MMPI/The MEGA Group. For inquiries please call 6312859.



NOT RUFFA. Richard Gutierrez with Scoop editor in-chief and Super! columnist Katrina A. Holigores.

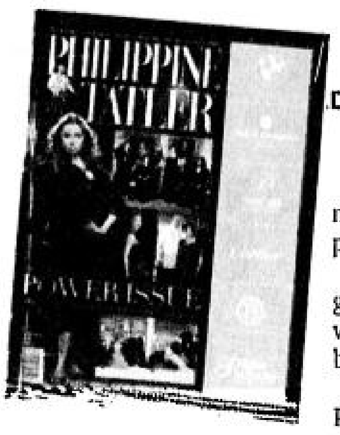
Who's who to attend tonight's Tatler Ball

By Tim Yap

SOCIETY GETS A KICK ONCE more as the Philippine Tatler celebrates its fourth anniversary with the fourth Tatler Ball to be held tonight at the Makati Shangri-la.

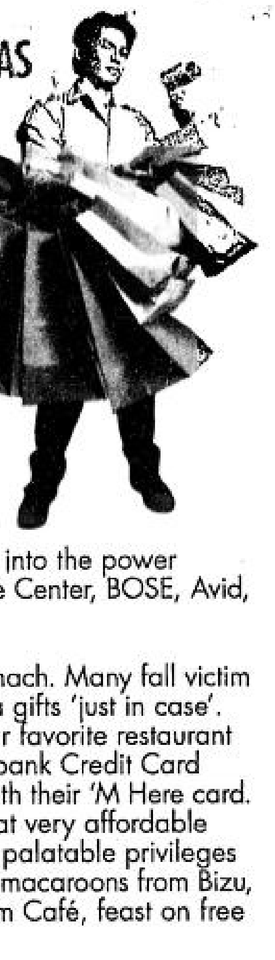
Who's wearing what? Who's going to be seated with whom? Who will get the Louis Vuitton bag? These are just some of the questions pursed on society's lips tonight in the land of the rich and powerful as editor in chief Anton San Diego and publisher Irene Martel Francisco hand out their yearly awards.

The Asia Tatler are arbiters of taste and good living in some of the most dynamic societies. Adorning Asia's wealthiest bookshelves, the Asia Tatler bring you a combination of lavish photography, luxury lifestyle news and incisive interviews with the region's most eminent and glamorous personalities.



With editions all over the region, you'll find the Asia Tatler wherever the good life is celebrated.

Have a Super! fourth year, Philippine Tatler!



'MORE TREATS FOR A MERRIER CHRISTMAS

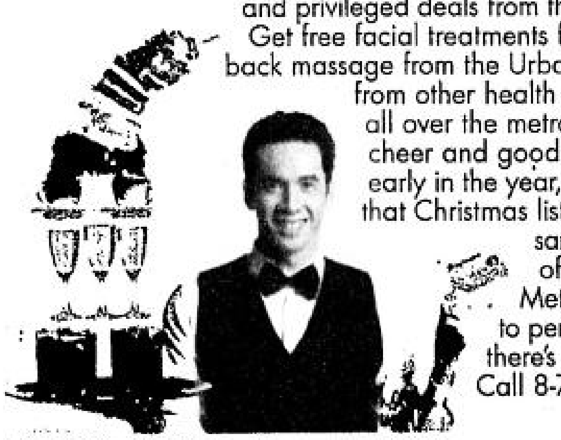
With the 'brrrr' months upon us, the Yuletide season can't be far behind. And with the holidays comes the task of completing one's Christmas list, an undertaking which can be very daunting especially in these difficult times. But Christmas shopping need not be a stressful chore, especially when you start off on the right foot.

If you are privileged to own a Metrobank Credit Card, a way to de-stress your Christmas shopping is to take advantage of the perks that come with using your 'M Here card by buying gift items at 'M Here-specific boutiques all over the metro. Be the sweetest stocking-stuffer with freebies and discounts galore from boutiques such as Celine, Replay, MEMO and even more! For larger purchases (a television for Dad? A DVD player for your significant other? An MP3 player for yourself?), 'M Here cardholders can plug into the power of the perks from the country's largest appliance stores: Apple Center, BOSE, Avid, Abenson's and many others!

You've probably heard it before: never shop on an empty stomach. Many fall victim to excessive retail therapy due to hungry bellies, buying extra gifts 'just in case'. Before embarking on a holiday shopping spree, drop by your favorite restaurant or café and load up on some yummy for your tummy. Metrobank Credit Card holders can maximize their pre-shopping dining experience with their 'M Here card. To get a taste of the crème de la crème of the culinary crop at very affordable prices, flash your card at 'M Here-specific establishments for palatable privileges and perks. Sink your sweet tooth into a free serving of French macaroons from Bizu, load up on a free glass of red wine and dessert from Museum Café, feast on free dessert from Burgoo and so much more!

Most importantly, after a bout of budget-wrestling and gift-hunting, it is essential to reward yourself with an hour or two at a spa or wellness center. But these indulgences need not be expensive —'M Here cardholders get the most pampered and privileged deals from the country's premier wellness centers. Get free facial treatments from Clarity Aesthetic Center, a free back massage from the Urban Spa, as well as discounts galore from other health and beauty establishments located all over the metro! Christmas should be a season of cheer and good times, not holiday headaches. This early in the year, get into the holiday habit and check that Christmas list to stuff your loved ones' stockings, sans the stress and the hassle. Get ahead of the gift-giving game with your Metrobank Credit Card. When it comes to perks, privileges, discounts and freebies, there's Metrobank 'M Here.

Call 8-700-700 for more details.



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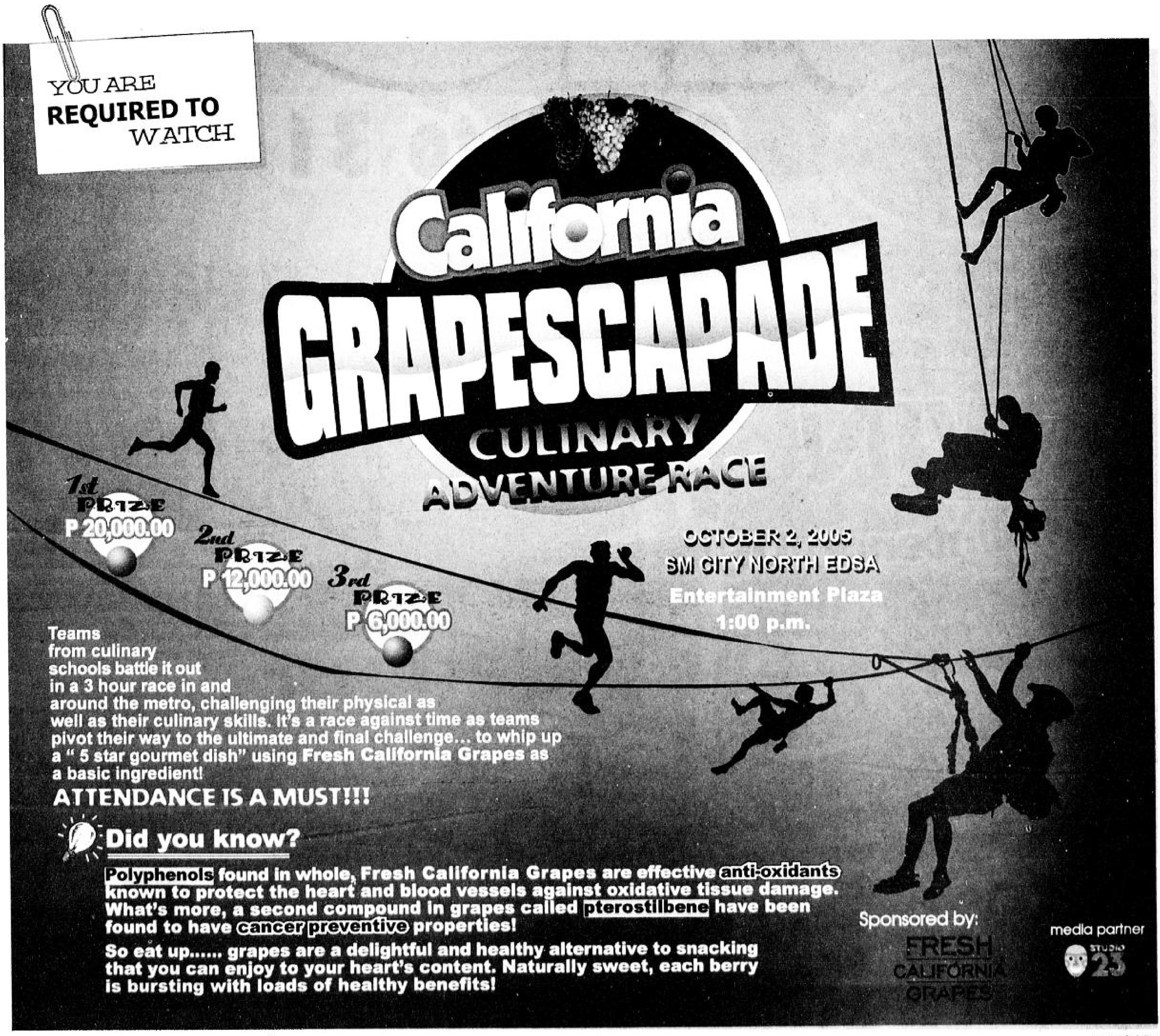

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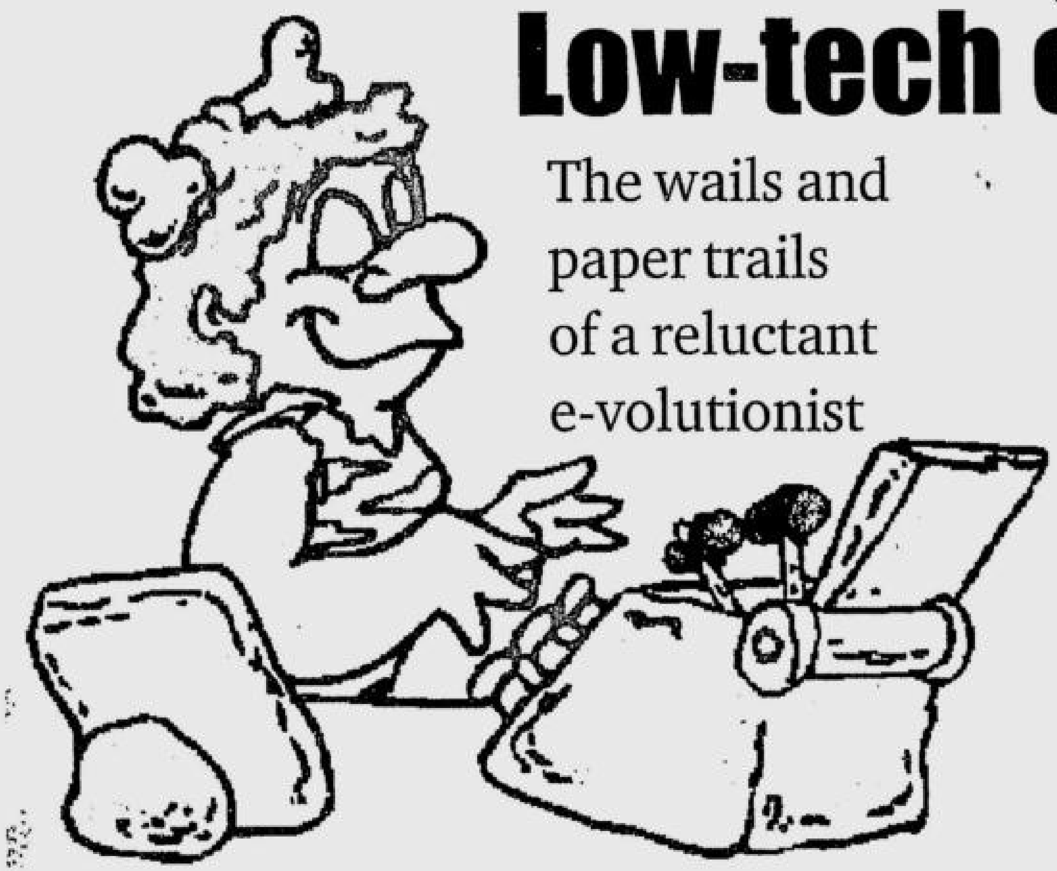
PHILIPPINE INQUIRER

Low-tech chick in a hi-tech world



The wails and paper trails of a reluctant e-volutionist

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

SO THERE I WAS ONE afternoon, meeting with my two business partners in our favorite coffee shop, discussing serious matters over seriously potent caffeinated brews. There they were, typing away on their gleaming, shiny iBooks, transferring photos from miniscule digital cameras, simultaneously downloading Coldplay songs on their iPods, and intermittently answering calls with their spankin', superskinny cellular phones.

As this beautiful slice-of-life of the modern world unfolded, I thought of the strange coincidence that both druggies and the computer-savvy set are referred to as "users." There I was in the midst of it all, on a different page, literally. Jotting down contact reports with my coffee-stained spiral notebook, listing numbers in an ancient filofax (filo-what?!), bookmarking events in a separate planner, and fumbling for scrappy old receipts which chronicled ideas I needed to bring up for the meeting. Sing it with me—"one of these chicks is not like the other!" I was a Neanderthal among Femme-bots.

In a world that converses through flickering screens, wireless transmissions, soundbytes and icons extracted from mega-capacity memories, I am left in the dust, grunting in an ancient tongue. To this day, it still takes me two seconds to process that The Web isn't something The Spiders spin. Java is still an island in Indonesia, or a damn good cup of coffee. Apples are still how I like 'em, in a cream-filled pie or a fruit salad. A Hotspot is what I'd call a cool club on a Saturday night, or that dodgy house in QC that was raided for illegal Ketamine dealing. And a book still comes in either hardback or paperback, not with hardware or software.

Beyond spellcheck

My anachronistic attitude when it comes to all matters tech-savvy has long been a rib visibly poking out for easy picking. To expound: I was one of the last people to evolve, in those Jurassic times when people still used this objet d'art called a beeper, insisting that if people really needed to contact me they would find a way, smoke signals included. It was the same trump card I tossed out again when the cellular phone first started fast-forwarding our lifestyles in an eyeblink. And now, once again, I feel this strange pressure of keeping up with the Joneses by finally procuring an iPod, a real, honest-to-goodness laptop that has more features than spellcheck, and finally ditch my filofax. Yes, filofax, it was all the rage when supermodels still roamed the earth.

A friend had offered me some consolation for my low-tech lifestyle when she told me that on that very morning, in an attempt to back up all her contact numbers by syncing her phone directory with her iBook, some unexpected snafu occurred and thereby obliterated her years-long collection of contacts. Thank God, she said, she still had a few numbers listed down on good ol' trusty paper, in her crusty "filo."

Screen vs paper

Time magazine's "Visions of the 21st century" once categorized people into two types: the People of the Screen and the People of the Book. (And on that note, might I add that these sweeping titles sound a tad creepy, kinda like "Children of the Corn.") The People of the Screen, though an apt title for the entire cast of Pinoy Big Brother (likewise creepy), refer to those among us who prefer the megapixelized, nonlinear dimensions of a world in a constant flux of sound bites and quick cuts. And then there are The People of the Book, though an apt title for holier-than-thou Bible-thumpers (likewise creepy), refer to those who have a very real fear that the page will soon die. They "adhere to the linear rationality found in books," and still savor the feel of paper between their fingers as they turn a page.

Screen People write and attach images in blogs, while Page People still write in journals and cram tangible memoirs, tickets, and photos between the sheets. Screen people store important info in their cellphones and computers, Page People still insist on circling red-letter days in their planners. Perhaps many of us to some degree, have turned to Screen People, for when was the last time anyone sent snail mail instead of clicking the "Send" icon to deliver a message in seconds? Add to that the pixelized wonders that give meaning to our existence: movie screens, TV screens, ATMs and Game Boys, mobile phone screens and Day-Glo megapixel billboards.

So is it possible to stay connected and info-savvy in this techie world, even if I'm still holding on to paper for fear of its very extinction? (My apologies to trees everywhere). I once read that in the near future, we are to expect books of "enhanced pages," which will essentially be a paper-thin computer screen flashing words and images in digital ink. Thus, book lovers will still keep turning the page, while people who are glued to the screen can still get their eyeball fix. Somehow, it just doesn't feel the same. It will take a long while before I would get used to chronicling my life for the world to access in blog entries, as opposed to being the only reader processing my rants scribbled in a personal journal. There is still something authentic about going through a maze of shelves in an old library in search of Shakespeare, rather than typing "Midsummer+Night+Dream" on Google. And though quixotic, there is still a groovy feeling to receiving a postcard or a Hallmark greeting card in my mailbox, over an online e-vite revealed in my inbox.

Give it time, I say. Perhaps in the name of sheer survival, I too shall evolve. But for now, I am vinyl in a land of CDs. Oh wait, I meant MP3s.

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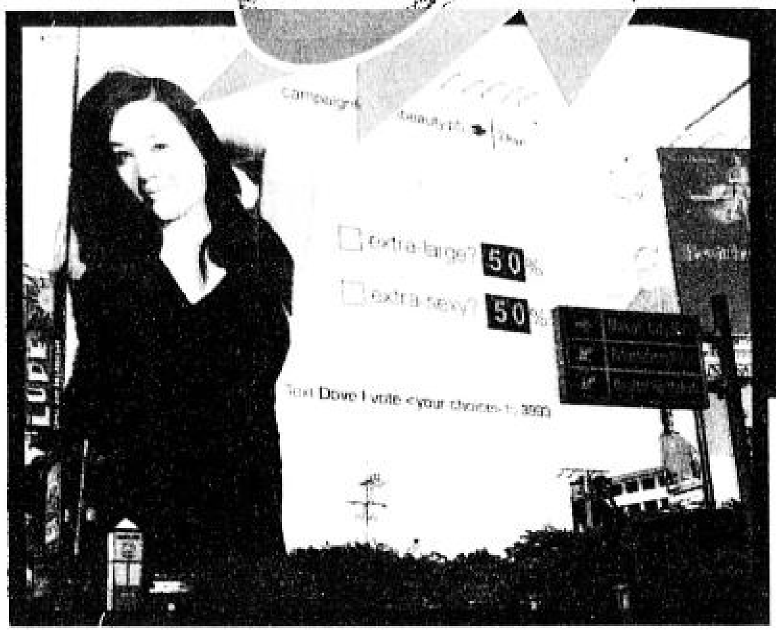


Is Dove's latest campaign a celebration of real women or—gasp!—one plus-sized joke?

Equal opportunity beauty

Age against the machine

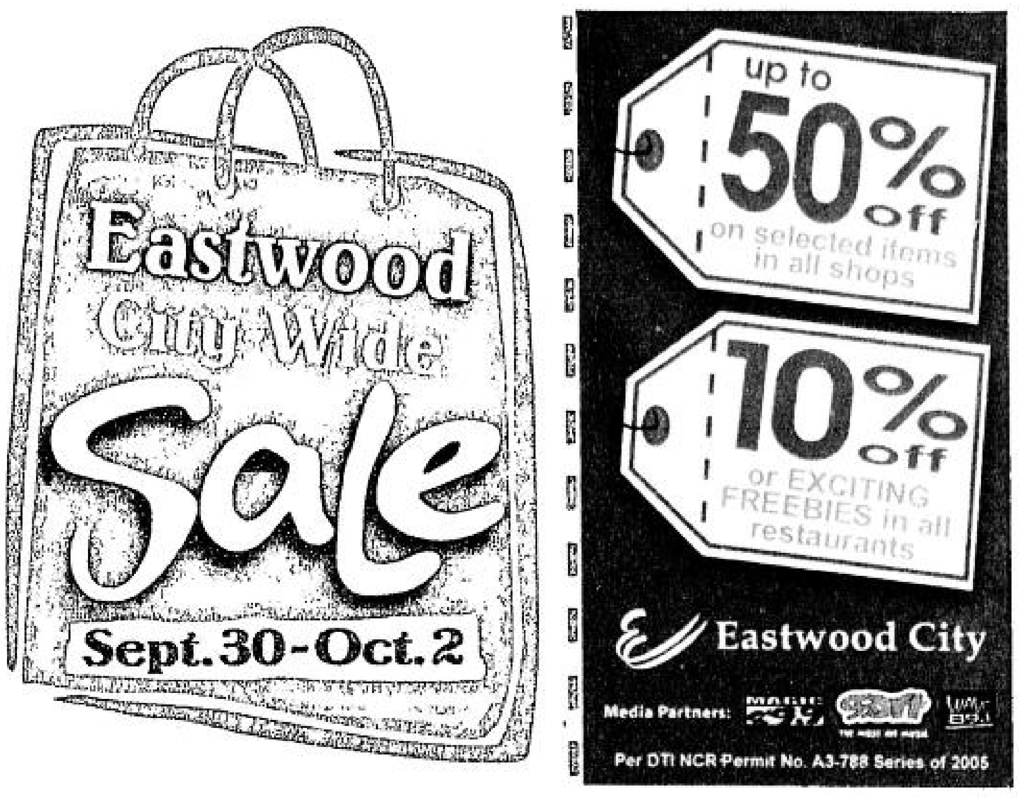
Gino de la Paz

WHILE barreling down Edsa one day, I became momentarily confused. There, slap bang in the middle of Guadalupe, somewhere in between Kris Aquino's omnipresent mug shots and the stinky Pasig River, I saw an ad starring an unusual subject.

"Hey, it's Shamu!" I giddily thought, referring to the way talented killer whale that entertained me as a child. Squinting further, however, it hit me that it wasn't Shamu from SeaWorld Orlando, Shamu from SeaWorld San Diego, or Shamu period. (It wasn't the cast of "The Sopranos" either.) It was an interactive billboard for Dove soap. Hot dang.

After recognizing the awkward silence that followed, one that let

EQUAL/ D2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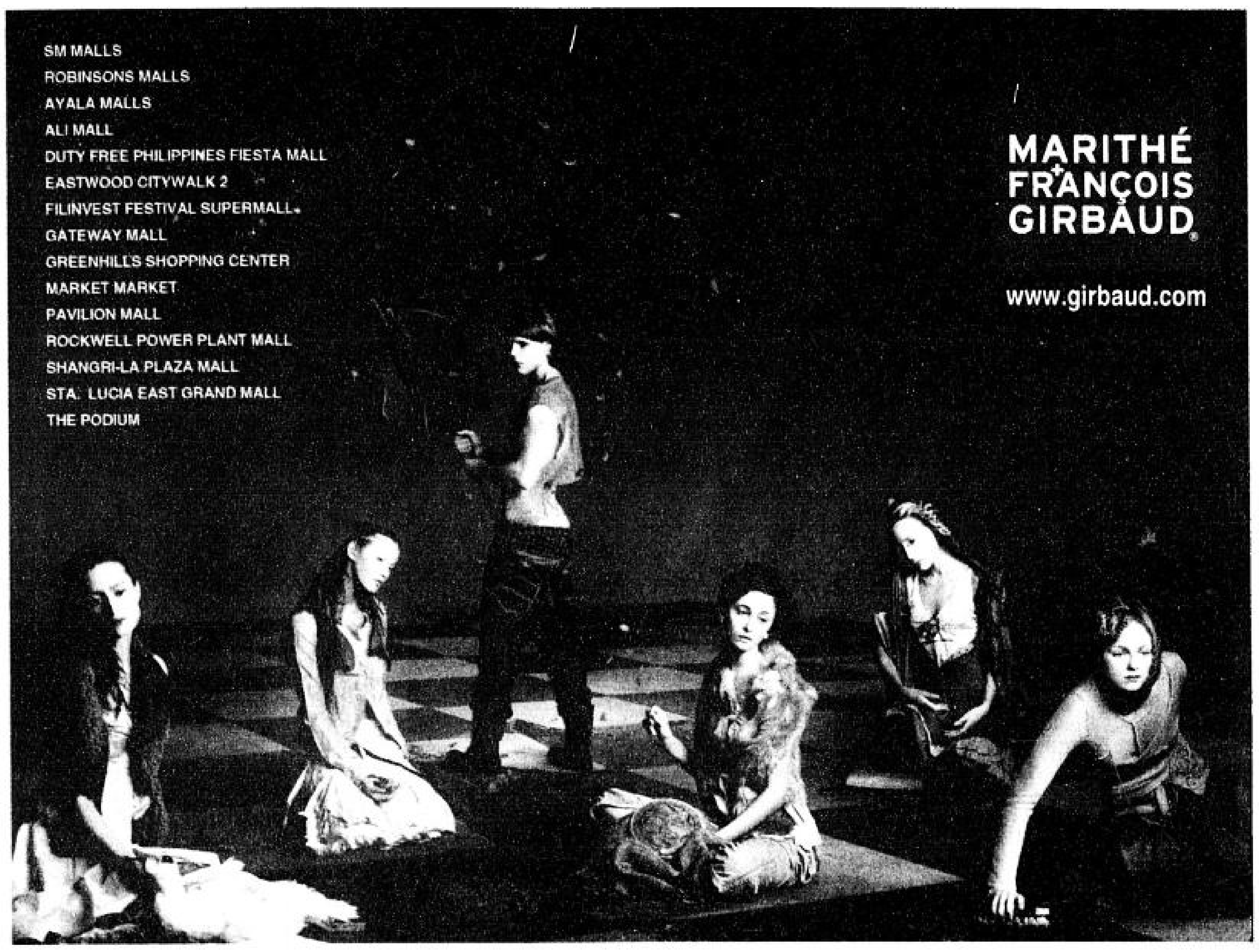
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Equal opportunity beauty

From page D1

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In the case of Dove, the Campaign for Real Beauty justifies lethargy in a way and underscores the prevailing tendency to be static because "I have to be myself." Should you forget about sunscreen because your sunspots are acceptable? Nope. Should you let your teeth rot because you'll be loved anyway? Nope yet again. Simple as that.

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Fiesta time!

24/7

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Janine Cuenca

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18 days of free films screenings! 26 critically-acclaimed Spanish and Latin American films! A chance to win a free plane ticket to Spain or Bangkok?! Pretty hard to resist, don't ya think? Instituto Cervantes opens "Película" on Thursday at the Greenbelt 1 Cinemas. We recommend you catch the Oscar-winning film "The Sea Inside" on Oct. 7, 9, and 16. But, okay, if you're really just after that lovely prize from Lufthansa, head over there on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. Audience members can vote for their favorite of the festival and get a chance to win those oh-so elusive tickets. Call 526-1482 or visit www.manila.cervantes.es/cultura/calendario.

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Let's celebrate our ability to make a party out of our daily lives, rain or shine

-Dario

events:

Oct. 1, Saturday

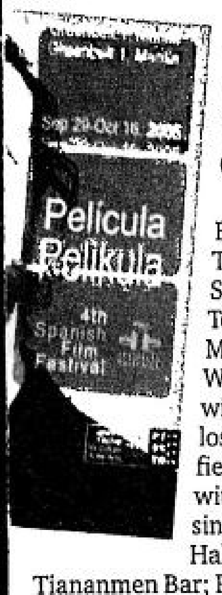
Bésame el Cactus at RCBC Plaza; Nina at Araneta Coliseum; Brass Munkeys, Bagetsafonik, Sino Sikat?, & Switch at Saguijo; Pump Saturdays with House DJs at Jill's; Superfly DJs at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Patch & Paolo Abaya at Absinth; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Oct. 2, Sunday

Cine Europa 8 at Shang Cineplex; Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas; Manila, My Manila photo exhibit at Greenbelt 3 Lobby; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar

Oct. 3, Monday

Candid Jazz Festival with Mon David at The Podium; Acoustic Night with Unlabeled at Suburbia; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar



Oct. 4, Tuesday

Acoustic Night with Ethan at Temple; Isha at The Podium; 10th Street, Best Before, Chili Tee's, Forgetting Luna, & Mighty at Saguijo; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; The Bloomfields at Dish; Velvet Party with DJ Kimosave at Absinth; Steak Tuesdays at Halo; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Freeverse at Suburbia

Oct. 5, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Affinity at The Podium; Spongecola, Mayonnaise, 6cyclemind, & Stonefree at Saguijo; Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Flirt:House Anthems with DJ James McCranie at Absinth; Cocoy Puyat at Bed; Smooth Wednesdays at V Bar; DJ Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur; House of Rock at Halo; Jimmy Bondoc at Suburbia; M.Y.M.P. at Dish

Oct. 6, Thursday

All Souled Out at Mezze; Nocturnal Massv with Travis Monsod & Funk Avy at Club Halo; Rock the Deejay! with CouchLab & Jun Lopito at Manila DJ Club; Catherine Tuttle at The Podium; Not So Jazzy Hoe Night with Quail Quartet, Philjazz Ensemble, Nyco Maca, Makopa, & Sound at Saguijo; Ladies Night with DJ Bad Boy Jeff at Temple; Supahstar Thursdays with Cocoy Puyat & Toy Armada at Bed; RIDDM with DJ Patch & Allona at Absinth; Retro Night at Dish; VEN at V Bar; Executives at Wasabi; Silk at Suburbia

Oct. 7, Friday

HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Mishka Adams at The Podium; Brass Munkeys at Wasabi; The Beach Boys at Araneta Coliseum; Australian Film Day at UP Film Institute; Milagros Dance Hall Collective, Ampon, & Drip at Saguijo; La Baila with Calypso DJs at Maestro Lounge; MyHOUSE with Elian Habayeb at M Café; Superfly DJs at Nuvo; Urban MYX with DJ Bad Boy Jeff at Phi Bar; Musik at Embassy Club; DJ Patch at Absinth; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Steve Mills at V Bar; Hot House Nights with Mark de Leon at Rack's El Pueblo; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Jive Fridays at Temple; Gogo Fridays at Bed; DJ Marie Garcia at Future; DJ ScratchMark & Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur; Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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Iron	**20%**	4%-6%	2%
Vitamin E	**60%**	0%	0%-8%
Vitamin A	**25%**	0%	0%-8%
Vitamin B	**25%-30%**	2%-4%	2%-4%

*BASED ON THAILAND RDI

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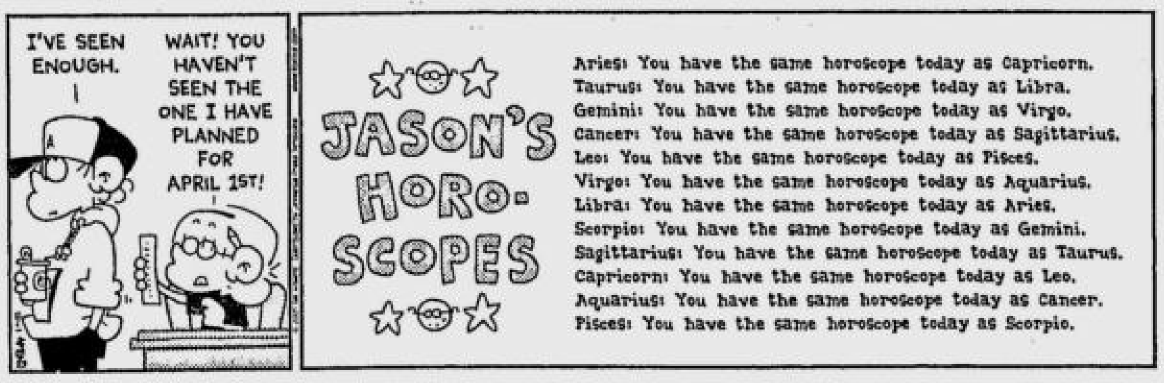
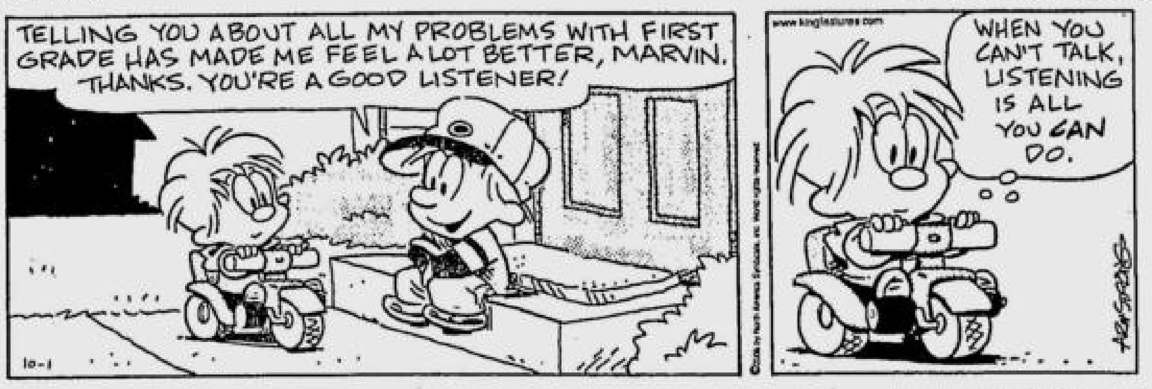
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
WAIT! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE ONE I HAVE PLANNED FOR APRIL 1ST!
JASON'S HOROSCOPES
Aries: You have the same horoscope today as Capricorn.
Taurus: You have the same horoscope today as Libra.
Gemini: You have the same horoscope today as Virgo.
Cancer: You have the same horoscope today as Sagittarius.
Leo: You have the same horoscope today as Pisces.
Virgo: You have the same horoscope today as Aquarius.
Libra: You have the same horoscope today as Aries.
Scorpio: You have the same horoscope today as Gemini.
Sagittarius: You have the same horoscope today as Taurus.
Capricorn: You have the same horoscope today as Leo.
Aquarius: You have the same horoscope today as Cancer.
Pisces: You have the same horoscope today as Scorpio.

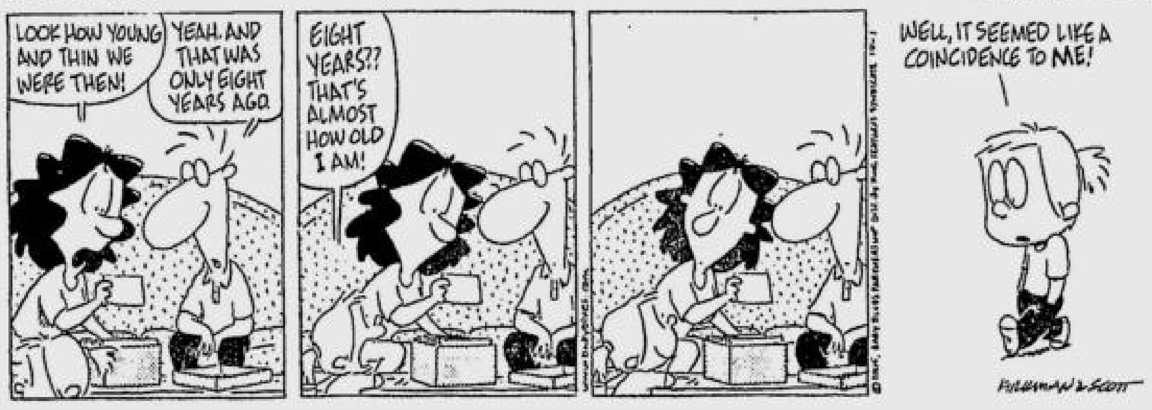
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TELLING YOU ABOUT ALL MY PROBLEMS WITH FIRST GRADE HAS MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER, MARVIN. THANKS. YOU'RE A GOOD LISTENER!
10-1
www.kingfeatures.com
WHEN YOU CAN'T TALK, LISTENING IS ALL YOU CAN DO.

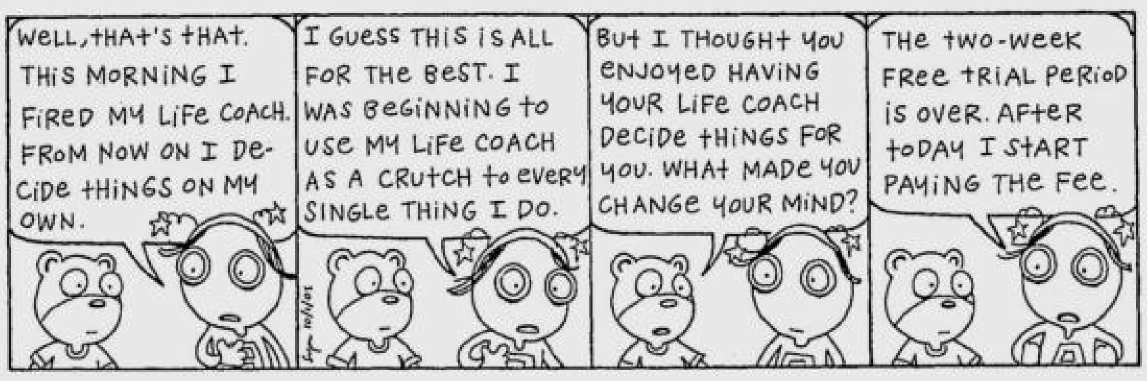
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LOOK HOW YOUNG AND THIN WE WERE THEN!
YEAH. AND THAT WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS AGO.
EIGHT YEARS?? THAT'S ALMOST HOW OLD I AM!
WELL, IT SEEMED LIKE A COINCIDENCE TO ME!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, THAT'S THAT. THIS MORNING I FIRED MY LIFE COACH. FROM NOW ON I DECIDE THINGS ON MY OWN.
I GUESS THIS IS ALL FOR THE BEST. I WAS BEGINNING TO USE MY LIFE COACH AS A CRUTCH TO EVERY SINGLE THING I DO.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU ENJOYED HAVING YOUR LIFE COACH DECIDE THINGS FOR YOU. WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
THE TWO-WEEK FREE TRIAL PERIOD IS OVER. AFTER TODAY I START PAYING THE FEE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a kind of dignity that makes others respect you. You're not flaky. Quite the opposite! You're dedicated to whatever cause you embrace. Even though you are reliable and hardworking; you're also an unusual individual. Others are not like you. The year ahead will definitely focus on your closest relationships and partnerships. **Birthdate of:** Julie Andrews, actress; Tom Bosley, actor; Randy Quaid, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to sit down with partners and have important, practical, long-term discussions about children. You're ready to do this. You want to prepare for the future.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an easy day to get a lot done at work. You don't mind staying focused on your job. You're ready to work hard now for tomorrow's rewards. (Very sensible.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to work with children or teach children something. All things related to the hospitality industry, the entertainment world, professional sports and the arts are favored in some way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for getting things done at home. You feel disciplined and ready to work. Nothing is too much trouble. Furthermore, you want practical results.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for long-range planning. Discussions with siblings and relatives will be productive. It's easy to pay attention to detail; therefore, choose work that requires concentration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Whatever you buy today will be practical and long-lasting. You don't want to waste money on frivolous items today. You want value for your dollar.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day to get wise advice from someone older or more experienced. A mentor figure can give you guidance now. You might even learn something from a stranger.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're definitely willing to do forgo instant gratification for future benefits. In other words, you're prepared to pay your dues. Great! Take advantage of this attitude and get stuff done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be in a position to influence others today. People see you as practical and knowledgeable. Not only that, but you're ready to tell it like it is.

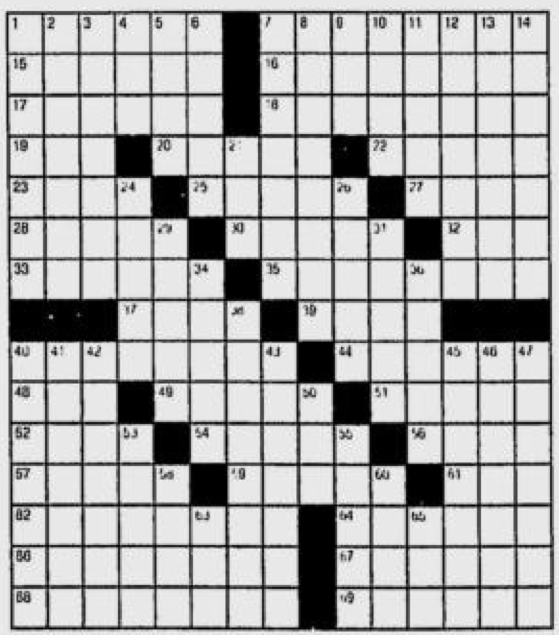
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone older and more experienced might lay down the law today. Fortunately, you're prepared to listen. You respect wisdom when you encounter it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Sit down with friends and partners to make long-range plans concerning publishing, higher education, travel and dealing with foreign countries. You'll make great progress today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is an excellent day to make important decisions regarding wills, inheritances, debt and taxes.. It's also good day to discuss shared possessions and how to handle them.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Restless desires
7 Scattered fluid
15 Mental distress
16 "Gilligan's Island" co-star
17 Virgil's epic story
18 Syncopated jazz tunes
19 Guided
20 Moroccan capital
22 Actress Diamond
23 Entry on the agenda
25 Braxton and Morrison
27 Scottish dance
28 Pepsi and Coke
30 Window sections
32 Explosive letters
33 Lets live
35 Sect members
37 Rifles and six-shooters
39 Malicious
40 Residence location
44 Postal necessities
48 Top trump
49 Binge
51 "Murder in the Cathedral" dramatist
52 Quiet period
54 Suit material
56 Feeble
57 Greek epic
59 Greek letter
61 Mineral springs
62 Mask
64 Kind of cracker
66 Perfumes
67 Loony
68 Most blatant
69 Landlord


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16
17 18
19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35 36
37 38 39
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
48 49 50 51
52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59 60 61
62 63 64 65
66 67
68 69

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
10/1/05

DOWN
1 Inclined type
2 Place for a star
3 Unit of luminous intensity
4 Property of color
5 Qatar leader
6 Assassinated Egyptian leader
7 Lake in the Adirondacks
8 Silver-white element
9 Delay
10 Mini-army
11 More timid
12 Small villages
13 Copper or nickel, e.g.
14 Processes seawater
21 Art Tatum's jazz
24 Mrs. Homer Simpson
26 Monica of tennis
29 Yertle the Turtle's creator
31 Assert
34 Uses scissors
36 Total
38 Subjects to strain
40 Fluorine and chlorine
41 Eye doctor
42 Singer Etheridge
43 Most macabre
45 Noxious atmospheres
46 __ Beach, FL
47 Thief
50 Easter treat
53 Type of beer
55 PC to PC note
58 Immerse
60 Green Gables girl
63 Arctic surface
65 NASA outpost

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	V	A	■	P	L	U	S	■	S	P	E	N	T
O	T	I	S	■	H	A	R	P	■	E	A	G	E	R
C	O	L	T	■	R	O	D	E	■	R	U	G	B	Y
A	L	L	O	F	A	S	U	D	D	E	N	■	■	■
L	L	A	N	O	S	■	■	■	U	N	C	L	A	D
■	■	■	I	R	E	S	■	B	E	E	H	I	V	E
F	E	A	S	T	■	U	N	I	T	■	■	T	I	L
A	T	T	H	E	D	R	O	P	O	F	A	H	A	T
R	H	O	■	■	O	G	R	E	■	L	E	O	N	A
M	A	N	A	T	E	E	■	D	E	A	R	■	■	■
S	N	E	E	R	S	■	■	■	T	R	O	U	G	H
■	■	■	O	U	T	O	F	T	H	E	B	L	U	E
A	H	I	L	S	■	A	L	O	E	■	I	T	L	L
S	N	O	U	T	■	F	E	R	N	■	C	R	A	G
P	A	N	S	Y	■	S	A	N	E	■	S	A	G	A

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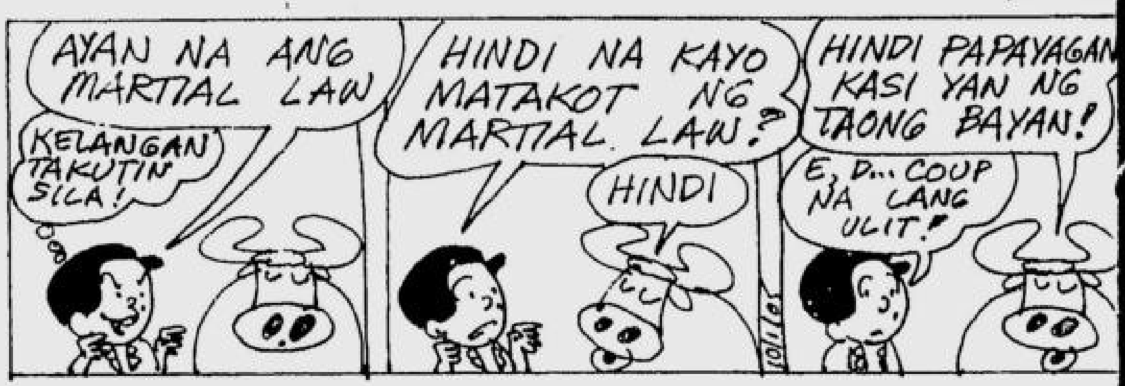
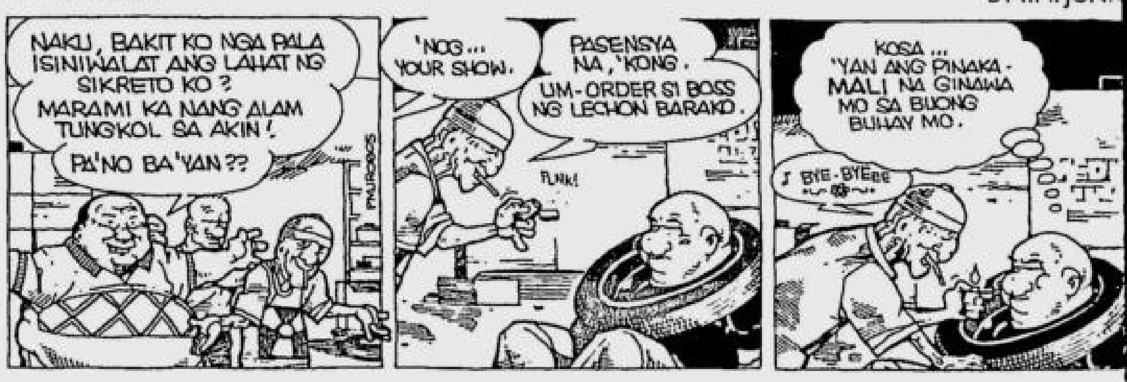
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRE


AYAN NA ANG MARTIAL LAW
KELANGAN TAKUTIN SILA!
HINDI NA KAYO MATAKOT NG MARTIAL LAW?
HINDI
10/1/05
HINDI PAPAYAGAN KASI YAN NG TAONG BAYAN!
E, D... COUP NA LANG ULIT!

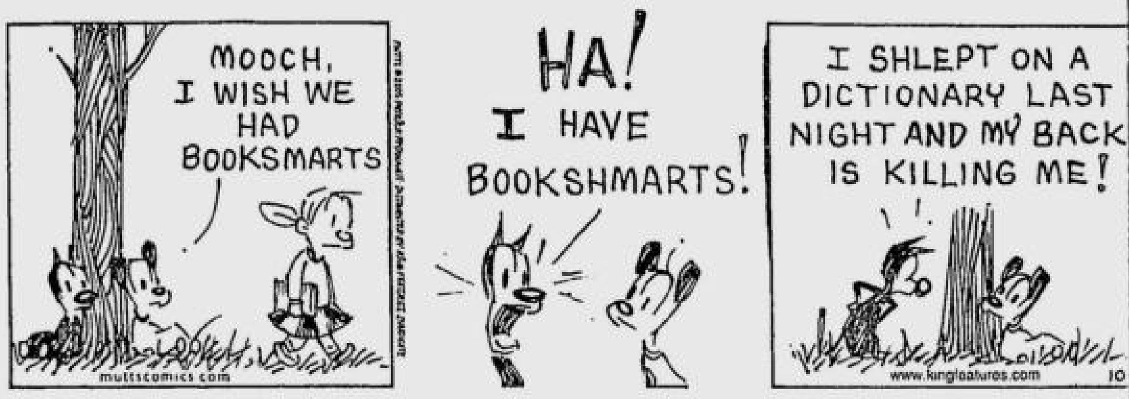
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNI


NAKU, BAKIT KO NGA PALA ISINIWALAT ANG LAHAT NG SIKRETO KO? MARAMI KA NANG ALAM TUNGKOL SA AKIN!
PA'NO BA 'YAN??
'NOG... YOUR SHOW.
PASENSYA NA, 'KONG. UM-ORDER SI BOSS NG LECHON BARAKO.
PLINK!
KOSA... 'YAN ANG PINAKA-MALI NA GINAWA MO SA BUONG BUHAY MO.
♪ BYE-BYEEE

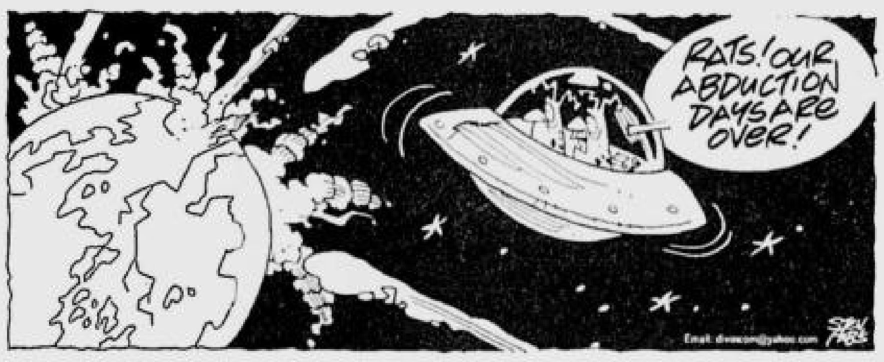
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNE


MOOCH, I WISH WE HAD BOOKSMARTS
muttscomics.com
HA! I HAVE BOOKSHMARTS!
I SHLEPT ON A DICTIONARY LAST NIGHT AND MY BACK IS KILLING ME!
www.kingfeatures.com

DIVINE COMEDY

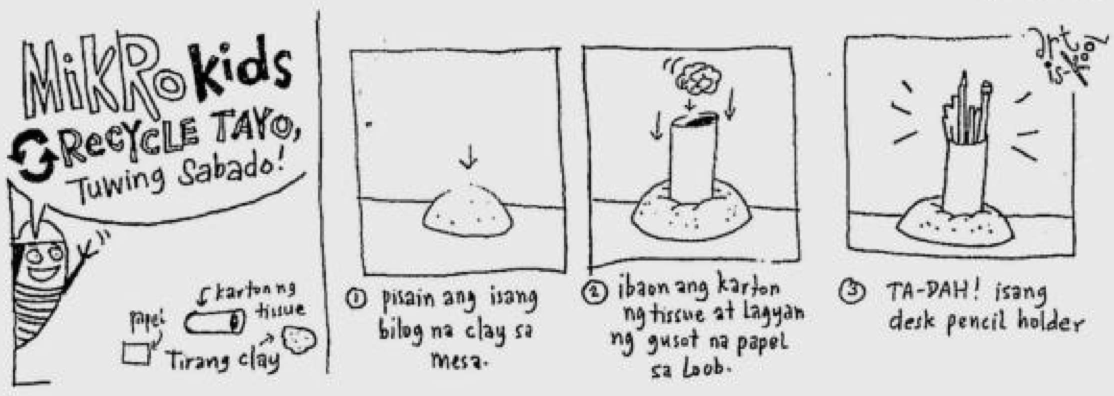
BY STEVEN PABALIN


RATS! OUR ABDUCTION DAYS ARE OVER!

ALIENS AND THE END OF THE WORLD

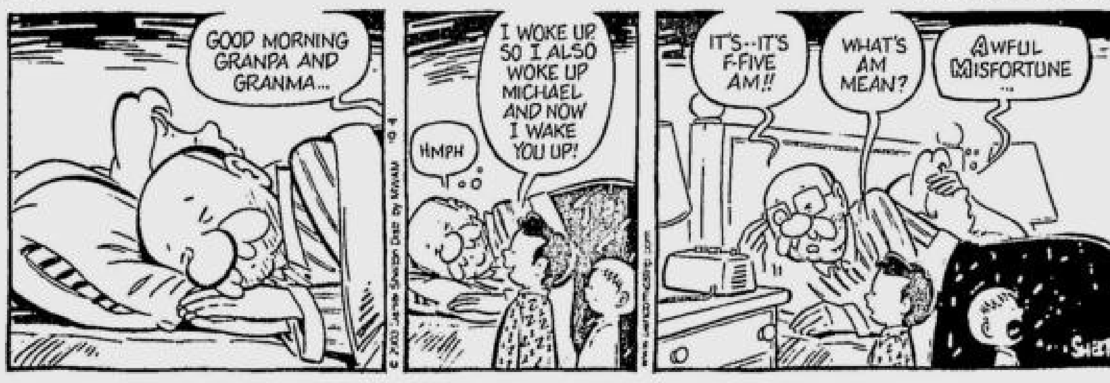
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJID


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
papel
karton ng tissue
Tirang clay
① pisain ang isang bilog na clay sa mesa.
② ibaon ang karton ng tissue at lagyan ng gusot na papel sa loob.
③ TA-DAH! isang desk pencil holder
art is kool

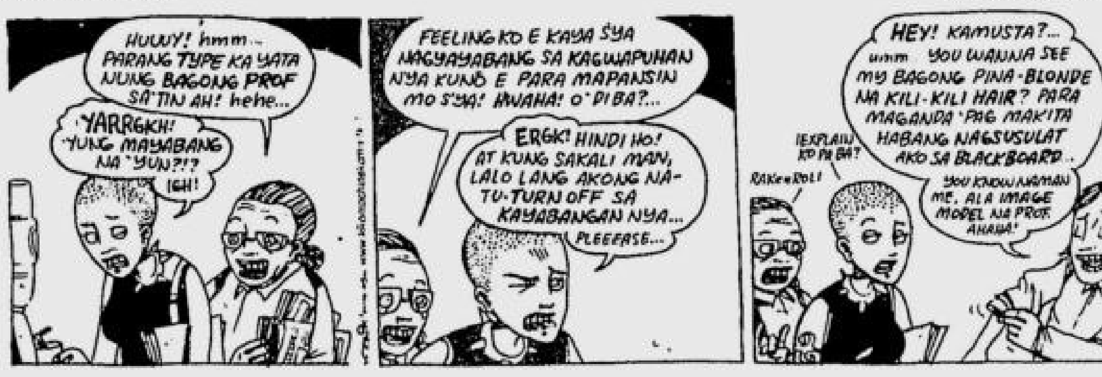
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTO


GOOD MORNING GRANPA AND GRANMA...
HMPH
I WOKE UP SO I ALSO WOKE UP MICHAEL AND NOW I WAKE YOU UP!
IT'S--IT'S F-FIVE AM!!
WHAT'S AM MEAN?
AWFUL MISFORTUNE ...

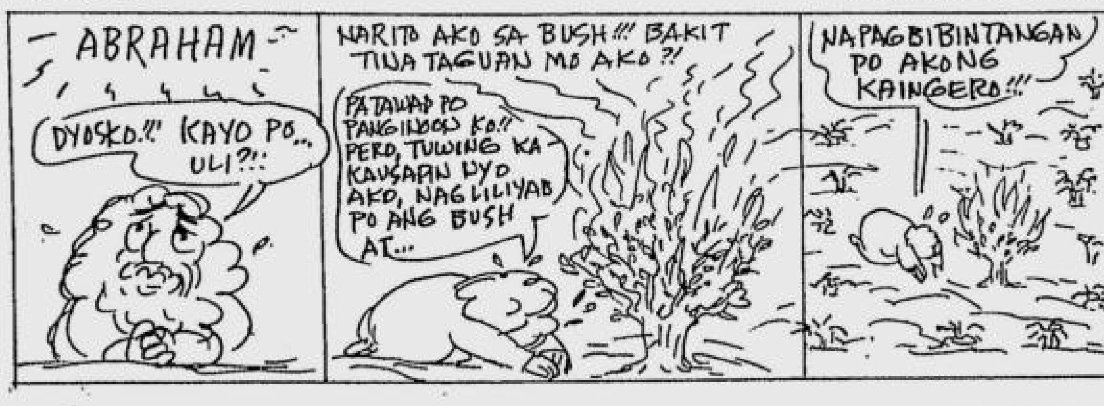
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRE


HUWY! hmm... PARANG TYPE KA YATA NUNG BAGONG PROF SA'TIN AH! hehe...
YARRGKH! 'YUNG MAYABANG NA 'YUN?!?
ICH!
FEELING KO E KAYA S'YA NAGYAYABANG SA KAGWAPUHAN NYA KUNG E PARA MAPANSIN MO S'YA! HWAHA! O' DI BA?...
ERGK! HINDI HO! AT KUNG SAKALI MAN, LALO LANG AKONG NA-TU-TURN OFF SA KAYABANGAN NYA...
PLEEEASE...
HEY! KAMUSTA?... umm YOU WANNA SEE MY BAGONG PINA-BLONDE NA KILI-KILI HAIR? PARA MAGANDA 'PAG MAKITA HABANG NAGSUSULAT AKO SA BLACKBOARD...
YOU KNOW NAMAN ME. ALA IMAGE MODEL NA PROF. AHAHA!
IEXPLAIN KO PA BA?
RAKenROL!

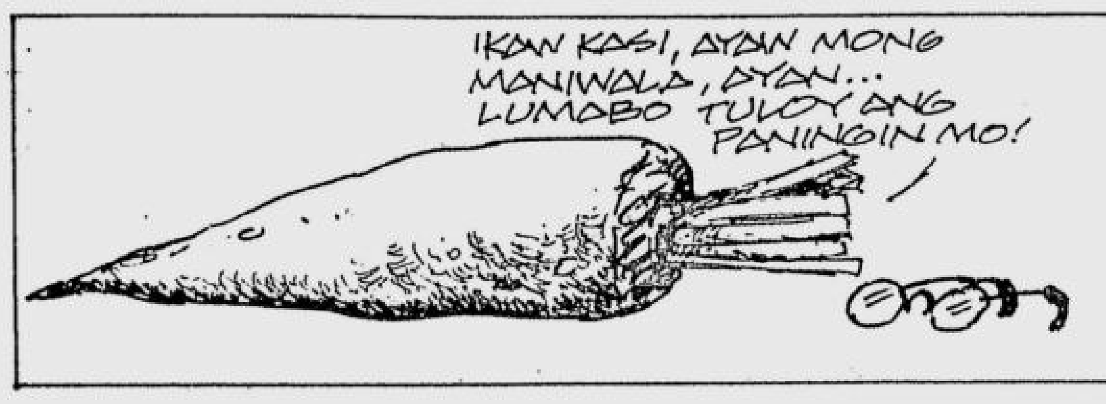
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONG


ABRAHAM
DYOSKO!! KAYO PO... ULI?!
NARITO AKO SA BUSH!!! BAKIT TINA TAGUAN MO AKO?!
PATAWAD PO PANGINOON KO!! PERO, TUWING KAKAUSAPIN NYO AKO, NAGLILIYAB PO ANG BUSH AT...
NAPAGBIBINTANGAN PO AKONG KAINGERO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILI


IKAW KASI, AYAW MONG MANIWALA, AYAN... LUMOBO TULOY ANG PANINGIN MO!